Royals in harmony for King's big film

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Tory leader blasts Reform defectors for having a 'tantrum dressed up as politics'

KEMI: MY PARTY IS FOR SERIOUS PEOPLE AND NOT DRAMA QUEENS

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**
Chief Political Commentator

KEMI Badenoch has blasted "drama queen" defectors to Reform UK as "not serious people".

The Tory leader suggested those joining Nigel Farage's ranks were motivated by sour grapes.

She said: "I'm sorry you didn't win the leadership contest; I'm sorry you didn't get a job in the Shadow Cabinet; I'm sorry you didn't get into the Lords.

"But you're not offering a plan to fix this country. This is a tantrum dressed up as politics." It

TURN TO PAGE 4

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Margot shows she's on Team VB

BARBIE star Margot Robbie swapped pink for suitably dramatic Victoria Beckham designs to promote her new film. Margot appeared to be Team Victoria as she reflected the light and dark side of her character Cathy in Wuthering Heights by wearing contrasting black and cream outfits.

The latest adaptation of the passionate, turbulent, gothic love story, which also stars Jacob Elordi, is out next month.

Victoria shared a snap of the Aussie actress wearing a cream mini dress with feather detail and high nude platform sandals on social media. The fashion designer, 51, wrote: "Margot Robbie wears SS26 [spring/summer 2026]for the Wuthering Heights press tour."

She also posted a picture of the former Neighbours star posing in shades in another of her designs – low-slung black trousers and a black silk vest adorned with feathers.

On Friday, at Emma Bunton's 50th birthday, Victoria's Spice Girl pals rallied round to show their support during her family rift.

BY **VICTORIA JOHNS**

Grateful

Victoria's services to fashion were celebrated on Monday in Paris when she was named a Chevaliere de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres – a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. The honour recognises significant contributions to the arts and literature.

She said she "could not be more grateful" for the honour as she posed for snaps on a candlelit staircase with husband, Sir David, sons Romeo, Cruz, their girlfriends, and daughter, Harper. She said: "I have always deeply admired the French aesthetic and the seriousness with which it treats fashion as a form of art."

Margot models Victoria Beckham's cream and black outfits. Inset, in Wuthering Heights with Jacob Elordi

Harry's on road to a Wembley record

Styles set to play 12 concerts at stadium

Harry Styles is setting a new record

HARRY Styles will make history by playing 12 concerts at Wembley Stadium this year.

The former One Direction star, 31, will overtake Coldplay and Taylor Swift as the artist with the most performances in a single year at the London venue.

Coldplay set the overall record with 10 Music of the Spheres tour shows last summer, while Swift's eight nights on her 2024 Eras tour is the highest number by a solo act.

Oasis racked up seven appearances at the stadium last year as part of their Live 25 tour.

Demand

A Wembley spokesman said: "We are incredibly proud to welcome Harry Styles back for what will be a truly historic run of shows. The 12 nights will be among the most special in our stadium's long history."

Styles was intially due to play six shows at Wembley but added six more due to massive demand for tickets.

His fourth studio album Kiss All The Time. Disco, Occasionally comes out on March 6. Aperture, the first single from the album, was released last week.

BY **CASEY COOPER-FISKE** and **MARK JEFFERIES**

Styles' Together, Together tour starts in May and also features performances in Amsterdam, New York, Sao Paulo, Mexico City, Melbourne, and Sydney.

He will be supported at Wembley by country singer Shania Twain. DJ Jamie XX. Swedish singer-songwriter Robyn and singer Jorja Smith are among those supporting him elsewhere.

One Direction formed in 2010, when Simon Cowell put them together on ITV talent show The X Factor.

Styles and fellow members Niall Horan, Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson went on "indefinite hiatus" in 2016 almost a year after Zayn Malik left the group.

Styles' self-titled debut solo album came out in 2017, followed by Fine Line in 2019 and Harry's House in 2022.

He has had two UK No1 singles, As It Was and Sign of the Times.

Tice focus on public pensions

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**

GENEROUS gold-plated pensions could be axed for future nurses, teachers and police officers under proposals welcomed by Reform deputy leader Richard Tice.

He backed a study that found radical changes to public sector pensions would save taxpayers £37.4billion every year.

The current situation is unfair because workers in the private sector are footing the bill for pensions that are far higher than they will ever enjoy themselves, according to the paper from think-tank Policy Exchange.

It called for existing defined contribution pensions to be closed to new public sector staff.

Those joining a profession, or anyone who took a career break and returned, would instead be offered a defined benefit scheme in the same way as most employees in private businesses.

Reform have not yet set out their pension plans but Mr Tice said: "This is a major contribution by Policy Exchange to the pensions debate, which I welcome. The current situation with public sector pensions is unsustainable and needs reform. We are very focused on this."

However, the proposals sparked an angry backlash from unions representing public sector workers. TSSA general secretary Maryam Eslamdoust said: "It's outrageous that the multi-millionaire deputy leader of Reform UK wants to raid the pensions of rail and transport workers, as well as other public sector employees."

Rayner hint over return

BY **KATIE HARRIS**

ANGELA Rayner gave a possible clue on a comeback to frontline politics as the former deputy PM insisted she is "not dead yet".

And she warned that Labour's leadership should "do better".

Ms Rayner, who quit in September in a row over her tax affairs, made the comments at a recent private fundraising dinner.

She said her party "should be humble enough to accept when we've made mistakes" and added: "We should do better, and we should do more."

Ms Rayner said she wanted to help Labour take on Reform, adding: "And I'm still fighting. I'm not dead yet."

Some 80 MPs are prepared to back her if there is a leadership contest after the May elections, her allies told The Times.

Braverman with Farage as she joins Reform UK

Jenrick defected from the Tories two weeks ago

'When my kids have a tantrum, I don't give up or change my mind, I send them to their room'

FROM PAGE ONE

followed the departure of Tory MPs including former Shadow Justice Secretary Robert Jenrick and ex-Home Secretary Suella Braverman to the ranks of Reform.

Likening the defectors to sulky children, Mrs Badenoch said: "When my kids have a tantrum, I don't give up or change my mind, I send them to their room."

The Tory leader declared she led a "party of serious people, not drama queens", as she appealed for fresh candidates to help get Britain back on track.

However, she did not hide her frustration with Mr Farage's poll-topping party, claiming it got in the way of the Conservatives landing more punches on the flailing Labour government.

She complained "every time we have the government on the ropes" Reform pulls "silly stunts". She accused Reform of "punching us from behind and letting Labour off the hook", and claimed it does not "care whether your son or daughter can get a job".

In her heartfelt speech in London, Mrs Badenoch also fired further warning shots at "former politicians" who want her to soften her policies.

Anchor

Moderate Tories including former Scottish Conservative leader Baroness Davidson, former Mayor of the West Midlands Sir Andy Street and former Home Secretary Amber Rudd have launched Prosper UK – a campaign group which aims to anchor the party on the centre-Right and reach out to the "politically homeless".

Mrs Badenoch said: "If people want a political home that will fix the economy, that will sort out our borders, that will give hope to the next generation, there is a home. It's the Conservative party."

She made it clear she will not back down on controversial policies such as pulling Britain out of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Leader of the Opposition said: "Some people have been questioning what type of Conservative Party I'm running.

"Well, let me tell you: a party that wants stronger borders and has done the work to leave the ECHR.

"A party that wants to stop bankrupting our country by deindustrialising and destroying manufacturing, under the guise of net zero.

"We've done the work and will repeal the Climate Change Act."

She lashed out at former politicians who "are in denial that the world has changed" and who "don't want to admit that immigration is too high". She warned: "Global mass migration is a real problem. It is going to take some very, very tough decisions to fix it."

Urging a new generation of Conservative candidates to apply to stand for elec-

Baroness Davidson

Kemi Badenoch delivers speech in London yesterday

COMMENT

KEMI BADENOCH

Conservative Party Leader

THERE are too many people in politics who don't really know what they are doing, or why.

They just want to be in the room. They want to be on top. They want access, attention and advancement. And when they don't get their way, they create drama.

It's time we got serious.

Britain has a Labour government that is letting us down, making bad decisions.

It is damaging our economy, crushing business, driving up unemployment and inflation.

It is piling up debt, giving away our sovereign territory and allowing our veterans to be dragged through the courts.

It must be stopped. And that is what the Conservative Party is working to do every day of the week.

The Labour Party believes the answer is more state control.

Reform UK believe the same thing – they are a one-man band that just want their hands on the levers of power.

The Conservatives are different. We believe in you. We will do our job and then get out of the way so that you can do yours.

That is what a party of the Right looks like.

Fighting

It looks like the Shadow Energy team of Claire Coutinho and Andrew Bowie defending our oil and gas sector every day, fighting for cheap, reliable power, and refusing to apologise for prioritising British energy and British jobs.

It looks like the Shadow Defence team of James Cartlidge and Mark Francois, working day in, day out to protect our veterans from prosecution.

And it looks like Shadow Chancellor Mel Stride and Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary Helen Whately finding £47billion in savings so we can cut tax and get our economy moving.

The Conservative mission is simple: Get Britain Working Again.

Through our hard work in Parliament, and with the help of millions of people around the country, we have already forced the Labour government to U-turn on taking away the winter fuel allowance; on mandatory digital ID; on launching a national grooming gangs inquiry and, with the support of the Daily Express and its readers, the hated Family Farm Tax.

But we're not done.

So I say to the business owners, the families struggling with the cost of living, the young people hoping for their first job: keep going, keep fighting, we are with you.

Keir Starmer is weak and has no backbone.

The Conservatives will keep fighting this government to change course.

Because they are doing so much damage, and there is an alternative.

It's the Conservatives' plan to cut spending, cut tax and back business, so we can get Britain working again.

tion, she said: "We are building an army that is going to deliver meritocracy, dismantle the bureaucratic class, and get Britain working again."

A Reform source hit back, claiming the Conservative party was on its last legs.

The source said: "The Conservative party will say anything for attention as they fade into obscurity. After the local elections in May they will cease to be a national party.

"Instead of howling into the wind, Kemi would be better advised to admit that Britain is broken, issue an apology for the mistakes the Tories made in government and remove those in her party that were responsible."

A Reform spokesman added: "Kemi is obsessed with us. As Britain reels from the damage caused by the Conservatives, she used one of her rare public appearances to attack us – yet again.

"She was a senior minister in governments that delivered record immigration and the highest tax burden in modern British history. Her party is haemorrhaging support and she's panicking."

Energy

The Labour party said: "The Conservatives are not serious, they're not sorry, and are too consumed with holding together their terminally broken party."

However, a Conservative party adviser was delighted at the reaction to the speech, saying: "The room was full, standing room only, and the energy was brilliant.

"The party needed to hear Kemi's vision for our country and why Labour and Reform are two sides of the wrong coin. Kemi delivered that and more and MPs, party members and members of the public are responding brilliantly."

The speech came as YouGov polling this week showed Reform UK leading the way on 25%, ahead of Labour (21%) and the Conservatives (17%).

The pollster found one in nine Britons (11%) view Reform more positively after the Conservative defections – though 13% say they take a more negative view of the party now.

Mrs Badenoch delivered her speech while Sir Keir Starmer commenced his visit to China.

The Tory leader she said that if she was Prime Minister she would not be visiting the emerging superpower.

She said: "I don't think that this is the time to do that. We need to be talking to those other countries who are worried about the threat China is posing to them."

She added: "This Prime Minister is weak and has no backbone. He bends under pressure. And that's my job, making him bend."

A spokesman for the moderate Conservative group Prosper UK responded to the Tory leader's speech, saying: "We welcome Kemi Badenoch's remarks promising to make economic growth a bigger focus as she rebuilds the party. More of that please.

"But while the party rebuilds itself, as it must, we will be out there meeting the wider group of voters who don't yet identify with any party and offering ideas and solutions to the matters they care most about – the cost of living, jobs, housing and more.

"So, whilst she cracks on, we'll do the same."

OPINION: PAGE 12

EXPRESS VOTE

Are former Tories being 'drama queens' by joining Reform?

YES: 0901 133 4440
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No text DXNO to 63333
Texts cost 50p plus standard network rate

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US security services backed Chagos deal, insists Starmer

BY **MARTYN BROWN**

THE Prime Minister risked infuriating Donald Trump further over the Chagos "surrender" after insisting American security services rubber-stamped the deal.

Earlier this month, the US president called the decision to hand sovereignty of the islands to Mauritius, "stupid" and an "act of total weakness".

But Sir Keir Starmer hit back at the remarks, accusing Mr Trump of using them to stoke up his bid to claim Greenland, in the first clash between the pair. Yesterday he doubled down, claiming US spooks approved the plans.

The Tories and Reform UK oppose the deal, with leaders Kemi Badenoch and Nigel Farage lobbying the US hard in recent weeks, warning of the security dangers as Mauritius is seen to be a close ally of China.

Ms Badenoch has said the president was "right" in his broadside at Labour while Mr Farage posted: "Thank goodness Trump has vetoed the surrender of the Chagos islands."

Speaking en-route to Beijing, Sir Keir said he had spoken to Mr Trump and the White House several times in the past week.

Asked if he trusted the US president over Chagos, he said: "The position is that when the Trump administration came in, we paused for three months to give them time to consider the Chagos deal, which they did at agency level.

"And once they'd done that, they were very clear in the pronouncements about the fact that they supported the deal, and they were announcements made by, I think the defence secretary, from memory. I think Marco Rubio as well, and by President Trump himself."

Pressed on whether he believes Mr Trump understands the deal, he added: "The deal was looked at in detail at an agency level because obviously this is about security and intelligence, and so it was an agency review that was conducted in the US before they then concluded that it was a deal they wanted to support, did support and did so in very clear terms."

The Tories hope to bring down the deal – under which the UK would cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands, *left*, to Mauritius, then sign a 99-year lease for Diego Garcia, site of a UK-US military base – by delaying the legislation in the Lords.

They hope the government will run out of time to pass the bill required for the treaty to take effect.

The Policy Exchange think-tank believes the UK could quit the deal without significant consequences.

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar refuses to be intimated as attacker sprays substance from syringe

Minneapolis congresswoman defiant after syringe attack

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

A CRAZED attacker was wrestled to the ground after spraying a congresswoman with an unknown substance from a syringe in Minneapolis.

Onlookers recoiled in horror as the man rushed at Democrat Ilhan Omar as she called for Donald Trump's homeland security chief, Kristi Noem, to step down.

Ms Omar, 43, who has faced personal verbal attacks from Mr Trump, declined medical treatment.

After initially walking towards the man, she said: "I learned at a young age, you don't give in to threats."

Just before the incident, she had urged Mrs Noem to step down after ICE federal immigration agents killed two US citizens within a few weeks in her state.

Mr Trump continued to hit out at Omar in the wake of Tuesday's attack, saying: "I think she's a fraud."

Footage showed how the attacker – identified by Minneapolis police as Anthony Kazmierczak, 55 – squirted Ms Omar with liquid from a syringe, shouting: "You must resign, you're tearing Minnesota apart." A Facebook page linked to Kazmierczak has recent posts with images of Mr Trump and one of the US president with Erika Kirk, widow of influencer Charlie Kirk.

Kazmierczak was detained on a charge of third-degree assault. The substance sprayed on Ms Omar remained unknown but attendees reported a noxious smell. The FBI is now leading the probe.

Ms Omar said: "This small agitator isn't going to intimidate me from doing my work. I don't let bullies win." She has been verbally attacked by Mr Trump as a "radical left lunatic", "garbage" and "disgusting".

ICE agents have targeted liberal-leaning Minneapolis with Operation Metro Surge as part of Mr Trump's mass deportation campaign.

Tensions have intensified after demonstrators Renee Good and Alex Pretti were shot dead by ICE agents. Two agents involved in Mr Pretti's shooting have been placed on administrative leave, it emerged yesterday.

DEAL AIMS TO CUT OFF

PM asks

BY **MARTYN BROWN**
Political Editor in Beijing

KEIR Starmer is expected to strike a new border security pact with China in his latest attempt to end the small boats crisis.

More than half of engines used by people smugglers crossing the English Channel are manufactured in the Far East nation.

The deal will be signed after the Prime Minister meets with Chinese president Xi Jinping and premier Li Qiang in Beijing today.

Migrant crossings have surged since Labour came to power 18 months ago.

Sir Keir's flagship "one in, one out" scheme with France has descended into farce, with more migrants being sent to Britain than deported back across the channel.

Last year more than 60% of all engines used by smuggling gangs were found to be branded as being manufactured in China. Inflatable dinghies used in small boat crossings are also often made using parts sourced in China.

The PM said: "Organised immigration crime and the business model of the smuggling gangs goes beyond borders. Our approach to shut them down must do the same.

"This deal will help us cut off the supply of boats at source – stopping crossings before lives are put at risk and restoring control to our borders. This is Britain back at the top table, delivering real results."

But Tories described the deal as a "gimmick." Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp said: "Illegal Channel crossings have surged since the election. Labour have tried gimmick after gimmick – claiming to smash the gangs, then a 'one in, one out' deal that saw 41,000 arrive and only 281 removed. None of this has worked, and this is no different."

Sir Keir's trip to China is the first by a UK Prime Minister since Theresa May in 2018.

A delegation of almost 60 representatives of British businesses and cultural institutions is accompanying the PM as he continues his efforts to build bridges with Beijing. But concerns over the risk China poses to Britain's national security and Xi's record on human rights mean Sir Keir's visit is politi-

REEVES 'FURIOUS AT BEING LEFT BEHIND'

BY **JJ ANISIOBI** Assistant Editor

RACHEL Reeves is said to be furious that she was snubbed for Keir Starmer's visit to China.

The Chancellor is said to have been "spitting feathers" at missing out and complaining to aides, especially as so many business people joined the trip.

A source claimed: "Reeves is furious. She has been complaining to her inner circle, and it spread like wildfire."

The insider also revealed she fears it may be the beginning of the end for her role as Chancellor.

The source claimed: "Rachel is spitting feathers – she knows there will be big trade deals and it feels very strange not to [involve] the person in charge of bringing growth to the economy.

"She thinks she's being cut out of the positive publicity and that perhaps Starmer is trying to distance himself from her before finally giving her the axe."

OPINION: PAGE 12

Keir Starmer is given a guard of honour as he lands in Beijing. Below, presented with a bouquet of flowers

SUPPLY TO SMUGGLERS

China to stop the boats

LAME-DUCK Keir Starmer comes face-to-face with one of the world's most powerful leaders today in the greatest mismatch of our time.

The beleaguered Prime Minister will hold talks with Xi Jinping on the second day of his China tour, in the hope of forging closer ties with the Communist superpower.

Some have accused Starmer of kowtowing to the regime, while others insist his trip to the Far East will help to boost the UK's spluttering economy.

What he does need to do is show he has the gumption to mix with the big guns.

Donald Trump has tormented him in recent weeks. Xi is even more ruthless. The high stakes showed on the PM's face, when I and other reporters spoke to him at 37,000ft en route to Beijing.

Questions about his meeting with China's president were met with a guarded response – so keen was he not to upset his host.

But, dressed in his cool-middle-aged-dad attire, he was relaxed too, particularly when talking about Reform UK and tofu.

Turns out he doesn't like either – although one quite a lot less than the other.

Shortly before landing in the Chinese capital, he ventured into the cockpit of the British Airways plane and joked over the PA system: "I'll be bringing the plane in from here."

Not a very reassuring prospect considering he has presided over 14 government U-turns so far...

ANALYSIS

MARTYN BROWN

Political Editor in Beijing

cally sensitive. Sir Ken McCallum, the head of MI5, warns that "Chinese state actors" present a national security threat to the UK "every day".

Intelligence chiefs say Beijing seeks to carry out online espionage, interfere in UK public life and harass and intimidate dissidents in the UK. And the security services warned that "it is not realistic to expect to be able wholly to eliminate each and every potential risk" from a new Chinese embassy approved for the heart of London

Sir Keir said he would "never compromise national security" in taking the economic opportunities presented by China. In the UK, he has come under pressure to raise a series of human rights issues with President Xi, including the imprisonment of British national and Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai and the treatment of the Uighur minority.

Ahead of his meetings with the Chinese leadership, he declined to be drawn on what he would seek to raise. He said: "In the past, on all the trips I've done, I've always raised issues that need to be raised.

"Part of the reason for engaging with China is so that issues where we disagree can be discussed, and the issues where we agree can be progressed, and so that's the approach."

Tory leader Kemi Badenoch said Sir Keir was wrong to visit China, adding the PM "needs to show strength, not approving a super-embassy which many people think is going to become a spy hub".

Keir: Loss of trial by jury 'only affects 3% of cases'

BY **MARTYN BROWN**

THE Labour leader tried to face down party rebels over his plans to limit jury trials as he flew to China yesterday.

Speaking to reporters, Sir Keir Starmer claimed the proposal would affect fewer than 3% of cases.

He and Justice Secretary David Lammy have been challenged by their own MPs since announcing the changes two months ago.

Karl Turner, who is leading the rebellion, said he was "ashamed" of the Prime Minister and described Mr Lammy as "lazy".

Sir Keir – a barrister before he turned to politics in 2015 – said yesterday: "This is a really fundamental argument of principle for me.

"I've been working with victims of crime for a very long time and they have to wait too long for justice.

Justice

"I have given my word to campaigners on violence against women and girls and to victims that I will do everything within my power to make sure they get justice.

"They have to wait so long they're not getting justice – so many of them fall away, pull out because they're waiting too long, and I'm not prepared to allow that to happen any longer, which is why we're taking these measures."

Ministers have confirmed that thousands of defendants already awaiting trial may lose their right to have their case heard by a jury. Some sexual assault, burglary, drug dealing and robbery cases will be heard by a single judge.

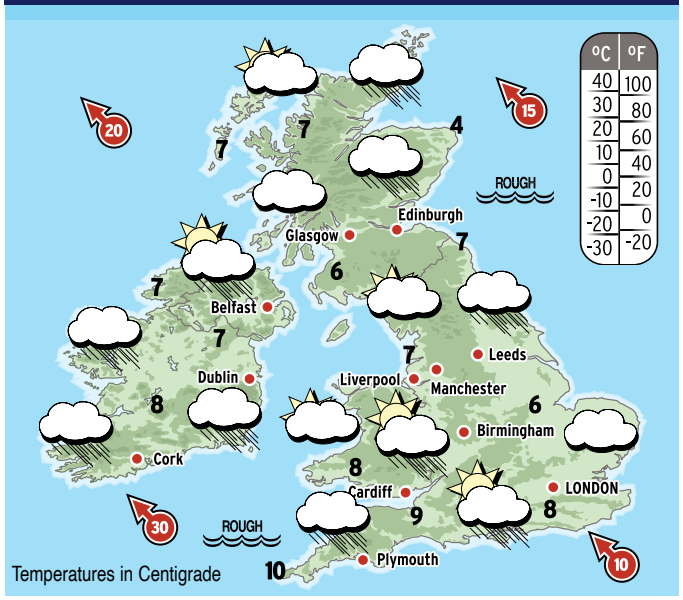
If a case is "likely" to result in a three-year jail sentence or less, it will go before either a magistrate or the new Crown Court Bench Division.

However, Labour are already considering watering down the plans so that two lay people sit alongside judges in the so-called "swift courts".

This was recommended by former High Court judge Sir Brian Leveson but ignored by Mr Lammy, who claimed the backlog could rise to 100,000 by 2028 if nothing is done.

TO READ ALL THE BEST POLITICAL STORIES OF THE DAY GO TO EXPRESS.CO.UK/POLITICS

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Mist clearing, cool and cloudy

North West: Wet with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 7C (45F).

Northern Ireland: Mostly cloudy with scattered showers, mainly later. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 7C (45F).

Wales: Cloudy with rain at times. Drier later. Brisk winds. Chilly with a gradual warming trend. High 9C (48F).

Midlands: Cloudy and damp with patchy light rain or drizzle. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 7C (45F).

North East/Yorks: Wet with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. Light winds. High 5C (41F).

Scotland: Cloudy with some breaks later. Breezy with moderate winds. Cool temperatures expected. High 7C (45F).

East Anglia: An overcast day is expected, but staying dry. Gentle southerly winds. High 6C (43F).

London/South East: Mist lingers, becoming mostly cloudy. Breezy, mild conditions persist through evening. High 8C (46F).

South: A dry day with sunny intervals and variable amounts of cloud. Moderate northerly winds. High 9C (48F).

South West: Overcast with light showers for a time and heavy rain later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Channel Isles: A largely dry morning but light rain is expected after midday. Fresh westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Very rough. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect misty conditions early, clearing to cloudy skies with mild temperatures. Light winds throughout, becoming breezy later.

SIX-DAY FORECAST Temperatures in Centigrade

	FRI min	FRI max	SAT min	SAT max	SUN min	SUN max	MON min	MON max	TUE min	TUE max	WED min	WED max
London	5	9	5	10	5	10	5	9	5	9	5	9
Belfast	5	8	5	8	4	8	5	8	4	7	5	6
Birmingham	5	8	5	8	5	9	4	8	4	7	4	8
Cardiff	5	10	5	9	5	9	4	9	4	8	4	8
Glasgow	4	6	4	8	4	8	4	8	3	7	4	7
Manchester	5	8	5	9	5	9	4	8	4	7	4	8
Newcastle	5	6	4	7	4	8	4	7	3	6	4	6
Norwich	6	7	5	8	5	9	4	8	4	6	4	8
Plymouth	6	10	7	11	7	10	7	10	6	10	7	9

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.0	0.61	4	7
Aberporth	4.3	0.02	1	8
Alnwick	0.0	0.03	2	5
Belfast	4.6	0.04	5	10
Birmingham	2.5	0.00	2	8
B'mouth	6.2	0.33	1	10
Bristol	1.9	0.08	3	9
Cardiff	3.5	0.05	2	8
Durham	1.0	0.00	2	4
Edinburgh	5.8	0.01	4	9
Glasgow	4.0	0.08	4	8
Hull	0.3	0.00	-1	5
Ipswich	4.5	0.01	1	8
Leeds	1.2	0.01	-1	3
Lincoln	5.2	0.01	0	8
London	4.7	0.13	1	10
Manchester	5.5	0.00	2	9
Oxford	2.8	0.01	0	8
S'hampton	3.3	0.14	4	13
St Andrews	5.9	0.24	5	9

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 12.07pm, sets: 5.27am
SUN rises London: 7.43am, sets: 4.44pm
Manchester rises: 7.59am, sets: 4.45pm

Full Moon 01 February

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(9.47am), (10.37pm)
Liverpool	(7.27am), (8.05pm)
Greenock	(8.10am), (9.31pm)
Dover	(7.26am), (8.15pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Tuesday) **Warmest:** Gosport, Fleetlands, 12c (54f). **Coldest:** Pateley Bridge, Ravens Nest, 0c (32f). **Wettest:** Katesbridge, 4.06ins. **Sunniest:** Valley, 3.6hrs.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.56pm-8.16am
Birmingham	4.48pm-7.52am
Bristol	4.54pm-7.51am
Glasgow	4.44pm-8.15am
London	4.44pm-7.41am
Manchester	4.45pm-7.57am
Newcastle	4.37pm-8.00am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Snow	2C/36F	Amsterdam	Cloudy	5C/41F
Brussels	Cloudy	4C/39F	Brussels	Rain	7C/45F
Dublin	Rain	8C/46F	Dublin	Rain	9C/48F
Frankfurt	Snow	2C/36F	Frankfurt	Cloudy	4C/39F
Geneva	Fair	6C/43F	Geneva	Sleet	5C/41F
Lisbon	Rain	16C/61F	Lisbon	Drizzle	16C/61F
Madrid	Showers	14C/57F	Madrid	Showers	11C/52F
Paris	Fog	9C/48F	Paris	Rain	12C/54F
Rome	Rain	15C/59F	Rome	Drizzle	14C/57F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F			C	F			C	F
Amsterdam	Cloudy	4	39	Hong Kong	Sunny	19	66	New York	Cloudy	-6	21
Athens	Sunny	15	59	Istanbul	Cloudy	13	55	Nice	Rain	10	50
Barcelona	Drizzle	10	50	Jersey	Sunny	9	48	Nicosia	Fair	15	59
Berlin	Cloudy	0	32	Larnaca	Fair	18	64	Perth	Sunny	29	84
Budapest	Cloudy	3	37	Las Palmas	Sunny	20	68	Prague	Cloudy	-1	30
Cairo	Sunny	18	64	Los Angeles	Sunny	22	72	Singapore	Fair	30	86
Cape Town	-	23	73	Luxor	Sunny	21	70	Stockholm	Cloudy	-4	25
Casablanca	Shwrs	17	63	Malaga	Shwrs	14	57	Sydney	Sunny	28	82
Corfu	Shwrs	14	57	Mallorca	Rain	11	52	Tel Aviv	Shwrs	17	63
Dublin	Rain	8	46	Malta	Sunny	18	64	Tenerife	Fair	23	73
Dubrovnik	Rain	11	52	Melbourne	Cloudy	23	73	Toronto	Fair	-11	12
Faro	Rain	16	61	Miami	Sunny	17	63	Tunis	Fair	19	66
Florence	Thndr	12	54	Moscow	Snow	-9	16	Venice	Rain	9	48
Gibraltar	Shwrs	16	61	Nairobi	Sunny	24	75	Vienna	Cloudy	1	34
Guernsey	Sunny	9	48	New Delhi	Fair	16	61	Warsaw	Snow	0	32

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Picture: JAMES MANNING/PA

Archbishop offers 'healing and hope for our fractured world'

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

DAME Sarah Mullally is yesterday sworn in as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury and the first woman to hold the post.

The former nurse was confirmed during a service in St Paul's Cathedral, Central London.

Archbishop Sarah, 63, said her confirmation was "an extraordinary and humbling privilege".

She added: "In this country and around the world, Anglican churches bring healing and hope to their communities.

"With God's help, I will seek to guide Christ's flock with calmness, consistency and compassion.

"These are times of division and uncertainty for our fractured world.

"I pray that we will offer space to break bread together and discover what we have in common – and I pledge myself to this ministry of hospitality."

The Confirmation of Election service was blemished only briefly by a heckle objecting to the event.

Water bills to rise £33

BY **STEPH SPYRO** Environment Editor

WATER firms have been slammed for hiking bills by an average £33 a year from April to fund urgent upgrades.

The average household's annual water bill will rise 5.4% to £639 to help fund a £104billion programme to secure supplies and stop sewage pouring into the UK's rivers and seas.

But James Wallace of campaign group River Action said: "When the water sector brags about 'record-breaking investment', what it really means is that bill payers, not water companies, are being forced to pick up the tab for decades of failure."

River Action is pursuing a judicial review of Ofwat's 2024 price review in which prices were set for 2025 to 2030. Mr Wallace added: "We believe customers are being made to pay twice while investors are protected."

The biggest hikes are £57 for United Utilities customers in the North West of England, Hafren Dyfrdwy at £54 and Southern Water at £55.

Investment

The average household bill for Thames Water's customers will rise £3, compared with £17 for Wessex Water and £31 for Northumbrian Water.

David Henderson of Water UK, which represents the industry, said: "While we urgently need investment in our infrastructure, we know that for many this increase will be difficult.

"That is why we will help around 2.5 million households with average discounts of around 40%."

An increase of 51% in complaints about water companies last year was driven mostly by affordability issues, said the Consumer Council for Water.

Water companies have been increasing support for people struggling to pay, but a patchwork of different social tariff schemes leaves customers facing a postcode lottery for support.

Ofwat's Chris Walters said: "We approved a doubling of company support for customers struggling to pay."

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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2m to have dementia in 24 years

BY **MARTIN BAGOT**

DEMENTIA cases will nearly double in the next 24 years, A REPORT claims.

There will be two million people with the degenerative brain disease in the UK by 2050 on current trends, according to the Alzheimer Europe report.

This is up from 1.2 million last year, and higher than previous estimates of 1.6 million by the middle of the century.

Jean Georges, executive director at Alzheimer Europe, said: "It is our sincere hope that our updated figures provide the impetus for decision-makers to prioritise dementia and ensure it is addressed across the domains of health, research, disability policy and support for informal carers."

Diagnosis

He added: "In particular, policy-makers must work to improve care services, make investments in health infrastructure for diagnosis and treatment, as well as help for family, carers and supporters of people with dementia."

The government has launched an inquiry to look at a plan for a National Care System, to run on similar principles to the NHS.

But this will not report until shortly before the next general election, so there will be no substantial social care reform until the next Parliament.

Health and social care costs for dementia are higher than the UK's other major killers, cancer and coronary heart disease.

In 2021 NHS England estimated the annual cost of dementia at £15billion.

DeepMind's drug boost

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**

A GOOGLE DeepMind invention that uses artificial intelligence to predict DNA mutations could transform development of new medicines, say its creators.

AlphaGenome could also help experts pinpoint the genes associated with particular conditions or identify the cause of rare diseases.

The model predicts how variants or mutations in DNA impact a range of biological processes that regulate genes.

Dr Robert Goldstone, head of genomics at the Francis Crick Institute, said: "AlphaGenome is not a magic bullet for all biological questions, but it is a foundational, high-quality tool."

'I had an afternoon nap and woke up paralysed'

Stroke victim's horrific ordeal

Andrea Berry now helps other survivors navigate their new lives

EXCLUSIVE

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

A MUM of three has told how she went for a snooze one afternoon only to have a stroke and lose the use of one side of her body.

Andrea Berry, 57, relived her terrifying experience to help others on Stroke Prevention Day.

Meanwhile, the Stroke Association charity warned the number of victims could soar from 102,000 a year to 150,000 by 2035 unless more is done about risks including high blood pressure, obesity, smoking and vaping.

Andrea, from Cardiff, popped upstairs for a snooze in July 2024 but woke up unable to move her right side. Using her left foot to bang on the floor, she managed to alert her son.

EXPRESS CRUSADE
LET STROKE PATIENTS THRIVE

After weeks in hospital, clot-busting drugs and months of physio, she was able to walk again. But she is still unable to use her dominant right hand.

Each day, around 280 Britons have a stroke – one every five minutes on average. But the Stroke Association predicts this will rise to 414 – or one every three-and-a-half minutes – within nine years.

In 2023 the Daily Express launched our "Let Stroke Patients Thrive" campaign for better aftercare and access to thrombectomies – surgery to remove blood clots.

Andrea, who also has grandchildren, said: "I'd been complaining of pain in the left side of my neck, shoulder and arm for about a month. It was getting worse and my blood pressure was high, but I was told this might be because I was rushing to appointments. One day I felt tired and went to bed, but when my alarm went off at 3pm, I felt strange. I tried to get up but I couldn't move my right side.

"My voice sounded funny. I didn't understand what was happening."

She banged on the floor and her son came running.

"He took one look at me and rang an ambulance straight away."

When he was told it could take four hours, "he called his dad, my ex-husband, and they were trying to figure out how to get me downstairs. It was like something from a comedy sketch, but they ended up wrapping me in a duvet cover and bumping me down the stairs."

When they got to A&E, Andrea was fading fast. "They told me about clot-busting drugs called thrombolysis and asked if I agreed.

"They told me I had just half an hour left in the treatment window. I was lucky. So, so lucky."

The stroke left her paralysed down one side. She said: "I thought my life was over. You expect your hand and foot to start working again like magic, but they don't."

Andrea spent four-and-a-half weeks in hospital, learning to sit and stand again, and take a tentative few steps. At home she was supported by Brian Williams from NHS Wales's Early Discharge Service, who got her walking.

Andrea also joined a local support group run by the Stroke Association.

Positive

She says: "We have a coffee and chat then some light exercise, a memory quiz and a little walk.

"I love seeing how far others have come. It gives me hope. It's such a positive place."

Despite losing the use of her right hand, she has learned to adapt. "I can't use my big hoover any more, so I got a little one," she said. "It's those small things that make me feel independent again."

Her next goal is to drive again, but in a car with left-hand controls. She has also become a Stroke Association Connect volunteer, helping others who are newly navigating life after stroke.

The charity is calling on the public to help protect themselves by monitoring their blood pressure regularly and taking steps to keep it at a healthy level.

These include a healthy diet, not smoking or vaping, getting regular exercise and not drinking excessive amounts of alcohol.

It also wants the government to prioritise prevention of strokes and give better rehab to survivors – two-thirds of whom are left with a life-changing disability.

CEO Juliet Bouverie said: "As the nation's health declines, the risk of stroke rises.

"Already one in four people who have a stroke are of working age. Without preventative action, alongside improvements to stroke treatment, care and recovery, this will only get worse."

● *The Stroke Association offers advice at www.stroke.org.uk*

NIGHT OWLS AT GREATER RISK OF KILLER HEART PROBLEMS

BY **STEPHEN BEECH**

NIGHT owls are more likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke, new research has found.

People who stay up late and are active at night – particularly women – tend to have poor cardiovascular health scores compared to those with more typical sleep-wake timing.

Unhealthy habits among night owls, such as a poor diet, insufficient sleep and smoking, may account for their lower cardiovascular health profile, according to analysis of data from more than 300,000 British adults.

The analysis, in the Journal of the American Heart Association, found that "evening people" had a 79% higher prevalence of a poor cardiovascular score.

And they had a 16% higher risk of having a heart attack or stroke over an average of around 14 years' follow-up, compared to intermediate people – those who considered themselves neither morning nor evening people. In contrast, early birds had a 5% lower prevalence of low heart health scores compared with those without a strong pattern.

Dr Kristen Knutson, of the American Heart Association, said: "The higher heart disease risks among evening types are partly due to modifiable behaviours such as smoking and sleep.

"Evening types have options to improve their cardiovascular health. They aren't inherently less healthy, but they face challenges that make it important for them to maintain a healthy lifestyle."

Man guilty of assault in UK after Donald Trump's son called police from US

Barron Trump with parents Melania and Donald

BY **TED HENNESSY**

A RUSSIAN man "jealous" of a woman's messages to Barron Trump has been convicted of assaulting her, after Donald Trump's youngest son told UK police he witnessed the attack during a video call.

Mr Trump, 19, saw his friend being assaulted by Matvei Rumiantsev in London in January last year, a court has heard.

Jurors were told the US president's son said to a City of London police operator: "I just got a call from a girl. She's getting beat up."

Prosecutors said Rumiantsev, 22, was jealous of her friendship with Mr Trump. The Russian was found guilty yesterday of assault occasioning actual bodily harm between January 17 and 18, 2025, and of perverting the course of justice.

Dismay

Rumiantsev was found not guilty of one count of rape and intentional strangulation relating to the same date of January 18 and another count of rape and assault alleged to have occurred in November 2024.

In a transcript of the call he made to the emergency services, Mr Trump said: "Oh, I'm calling from the US, I just got a call from a girl, you know, she's getting beat up", Snaresbrook crown court heard.

Mr Trump replied to investigating police in May last year in an email saying: "What I saw was very brief but prevalent. I didn't expect her to pick up due to the difference in the time zone. The phone was answered but not by her, to my dismay. The individual who picked up was a shirtless man with darkish hair. This view lasted maybe one second. I was racing with adrenaline.

Russian Rumiantsev

"The camera was then flipped to the victim getting hit while crying, stating something in Russian. The guy had hung up. This whole interaction had lasted five to seven seconds." Mr Trump grew up in the public eye as the only child of Donald and Melania Trump and was rumoured to be helping his father with his election strategy in 2024.

Rumiantsev, of Canary Wharf, East London, will be sentenced at the same court on March 27.

Pensioners prime target for con trick

BY **PAUL JEEVES**

FRAUD against pensioners is one of the fastest-growing forms of financial crime, with victims sometimes losing four-figure sums in a single interaction.

Experts say con artists are deliberately shifting their attention to grandparents, often because it is easier to exploit trust than to crack passwords.

One of the most common scams is where criminals pose as a grandchild or relative claiming to be in trouble.

Mark Baars, a tech expert at Unit4, said: "These calls often start with something like, 'It's me, I need help'.

"Once the scammer establishes an emotional hook, they introduce an urgent problem such as a legal issue, a medical bill or a fine that must be paid immediately.

"Older adults are a prime target because they often have decent savings. It can have lasting consequences for mental health and independence."

King and screen

Charles' film shows dogged desire to save planet

BY **EMILY FERGUSON**
Royal Editor

THE King insists he will not be "diverted" from his environmental mission despite widespread criticism and ridicule over the years.

He was speaking in an Amazon Prime documentary celebrating his lifelong dedication to sustainability and climate action.

In Finding Harmony: A King's Vision, Charles, 77, warns that the fight to save the planet is "rapidly going backwards".

He adds: "I've said that for the last 40 years. I can only do what I can do, which is not very much."

The King says he sees his role as "facilitating" – bringing changemakers together so important conversations can be had.

He adds in the film: "I just felt this was the approach I was going to stick to, a course I set and I wasn't going to be diverted from."

The documentary was launched at Windsor Castle last night at a glittering premiere hosted by Charles and Queen Camilla, 78, the first such event to be held at a royal residence.

Guests from across the arts included Kate Winslet, Sir Kenneth Branagh, Dame Judi Dench, Benedict Cumberbatch, Sir Rod Stewart and top gardener Alan Titchmarsh.

Camilla and Charles at the premiere at Windsor Castle last night

Singing legend Sir Rod Stewart with wife Penny Lancaster

Stage and screen royalty Dame Judi Dench

Benedict Cumberbatch and wife Sophie Hunter. Left, Alan Titchmarsh

Guests Kate Winslet and Sir Kenneth Branagh

Haunted

The 90-minute film is described as "a deeply personal landmark documentary that explores His Majesty's lifelong vision for a more balanced and sustainable world".

It also aims to show a new side to Charles as he uses his platform to make a difference to the natural world.

The film features a treasure trove of rare archive footage from the past 75 years, including clips of his key environmental speeches, films from his and his children's childhood and footage from previous royal documentaries.

It also includes the comment from an ITV documentary in 1986 where, as he walked away from his garden at Highgrove, Charles said: "I just come and talk to the plants really. Very important to talk to them. They respond."

The throwaway remark led to widespread ridicule and Ms Winslet, one of the film's narrators, says the reaction "haunted" him for years.

It is also said the then-Prince of Wales was viewed "as a bit of a hippy" and "bonkers" but as he continued to champion the environment and the need to work with nature, he emerged as a leading figure on climate change.

The King, who is still receiving treatment for cancer, adds in the film: "People don't seem to understand it's not just climate that's the problem, it's also biodiversity loss.

"We're destroying our means of survival all the time.

"To put that back together is possible but we should have been doing it long ago. We've got to do it as fast as we can now."

Charles' humour shines through as he discusses his hopes and chats to the film crew. He says: "We are part of nature, not apart from it. Maybe, by the time I shuffle off this mortal coil, there might be a little more awareness.

"It would be nice to see if we can get through to people."

'Maybe, by the time I shuffle off this mortal coil, there may be a little more awareness'

Potatoes

And at Highgrove, the King is seen holding a basket of eggs in one hand and a bucket of chicken feed as he enters the aptly named "Cluckingham Palace". "Come along," the royal calls to the chickens, with his trousers tucked into his wellies. He also extols the merits of a good spud to get the best jacket potatoes, saying: "If you want to have a decent baked potato, which I love, you've got to have the crispy skins, so the red Duke of Yorks are very good."

A spokesman for the King said of the film: "Audiences will find it fascinating and revealing about King Charles the monarch, the man and the environmental missionary."

● *Finding Harmony: A King's Vision is on Prime Video from February 6.*

OPINION: PAGE 12

DAILY EXPRESS

One Canada Square, London E14 5AP
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Tories and Reform fight for Right to finish Labour

CONSERVATIVE leader Kemi Badenoch came out swinging when she gathered her Shadow Cabinet and loyal activists together for a major speech yesterday.

Former Tory comrades who defected to Reform UK are "drama queens" who threw a tantrum because their egos were wounded, she suggested.

She also complained that Labour gets off the hook too often because Conservative efforts to hold Sir Keir Starmer's party to account are undermined by attacks from Reform UK.

This is a new situation in British politics, in which two major parties of the Right are vying for support.

Mr Farage argues he is on a mission to unite the Right, while Mrs Badenoch says that Reform is out to destroy her party but does not care about the problems afflicting ordinary Britons.

The battle between the two parties could define the future of British politics for at least a generation.

Mr Farage is a legendary communicator and Mrs Badenoch has proven she can pack a rhetorical punch.

Those who have switched ranks need to prove they can craft what Britain sorely needs – policies that will lead the country out of Labour's no-growth quagmire, secure our borders and restore common sense to the heart of our democracy.

The same challenge is facing the Tories. For both parties, there is all to play for.

Millions of Britons will be thrilled if there is the real prospect of Labour's ruinous reign coming to an end.

Absent without Reeves

RACHEL Reeves's absence from the Prime Minister's visit to China is damning and it is no wonder that the Chancellor was reportedly left "spitting feathers" over the very public snub.

It was a bizarre spectacle in the House of Commons yesterday to see both Ms Reeves and Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper sitting on the green benches while Keir Starmer was on Chinese soil.

Ms Reeves's appalling and cruel decisions during her first year in power threaten to define the legacy of this Labour government.

The PM does not want her by his side in Beijing and, one suspects, if he was in a stronger position he would have ousted her from the Treasury.

Star billing for Charles

NEITHER Britain nor the world is in a state of harmony today, but for years our King has been on a quest to make this quality a reality.

A new documentary explores the philosophy that shaped his time as Prince of Wales and now as monarch – the belief that we must see ourselves as part of nature.

Yesterday, Charles attended the premiere of Finding Harmony: A King's Vision, held for the first time at Windsor Castle.

Whatever he made of the film, his commitment to securing a better Britain is beyond doubt and in the great roster of royals he is a bona fide star.

Keir's too scared of a coup to spot China threat in front of him

Keir Starmer is assured of a warm welcome from Xi Jinping after embassy go-ahead

Esther Krakue
Daily Express columnist

SIR KEIR Starmer has been criticised for failing to take a tougher stance on China amid revelations that a Beijing-run cyber-espionage operation targeted the phones of close aides to Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak between 2021 and 2024.

Yet is anyone remotely surprised – either about China's spying or the PM's dithering?

Starmer is too busy flip-flopping on policy and fending off leadership bids to tell his leg from his elbow, let alone articulate a coherent China strategy.

Yes, China is an important trading partner, but giving the green light to a Chinese mega-embassy in the heart of London and then going cap in hand to Beijing smacks of humiliation.

The Prime Minister should be taking a tougher, more pragmatic approach. The Chinese do not respect weakness. They only respect strength.

To be honest, I really couldn't care less that the Chinese have been spying on us. We should be spying on them too. It's naïve to suggest we live in a world where major powers will not try to get the upper hand over geopolitical adversaries.

The real imperative is to get better at defending ourselves against these malicious campaigns. Of course, you will never hear the Westminster lot admit this, because it would highlight their spectacular incompetence with flashing neon lights.

BUT IT IS not enough to simply talk tough on China. Our willingness to decouple economically is the single most important issue. For the immature sages of SW1 who think Britain's future lies in ever-closer ties with Beijing because "the orange man said mean things that hurt their feelings", there is a harsh reality check coming.

Without any leverage over China, which the UK and Europe increasingly do not have after hollowing out our homegrown industries in favour of cheap foreign goods, talking tough is pointless.

Earlier this month, as Donald Trump was busy torpedoing Starmer's Chagos Islands deal, the PM reminded us he has always been a "lifelong advocate of international law".

Wouldn't it be nice if he could be such a fierce advocate for Britain?

This naive allegiance to international law is precisely why he so often works against this country's strategic interests.

When you have a leader more ready to gush over a debunked set of unenforceable rules than defend the country, it's hardly shocking he doesn't appear to have the stones to stand up for Britain when it matters.

The rapidly unravelling Chagos deal is a case in point.

By elevating a non-binding advisory opinion into a moral commandment, the government agreed to hand over sovereignty of one of Britain's most strategically important territories on terms so ludicrously disadvantageous even Starmer's former legal colleagues have described them as "nuts".

Under the agreement, Britain will pay billions to lease back the UK-US Diego Garcia base, central to Western military operations in the Indo-Pacific, while placing it under the sovereignty of Mauritius, a country bound by a nuclear-free treaty that could restrict US deployments in the future.

Mauritius is deeply embedded in Beijing's "Belt and Road" strategy of influence.

It receives large-scale Chinese infrastructure funding and was the first African nation to sign a free-trade agreement with China. Beijing celebrated the Chagos deal as a triumph, which should tell us everything. At the same time, the government's approval of a vast Chinese embassy near the Square Mile, despite obvious security risks, beggars belief. All of this is happening as Starmer is in Beijing, while Britain continues to perform elaborate linguistic gymnastics to avoid calling China what it plainly is: a hostile strategic competitor.

Our allies are watching. Seoul and Tokyo, both eager for dependable European partners, will be drawing their own conclusions about Britain's priorities and reliability.

'Britain no longer understands power, leverage and consequence'

I HAVE it on good authority that the Prime Minister will be busying himself with how not to be dragged out of power by a leadership bid in the coming months. Andy Burnham and Angela Rayner loyalists are already swarming Westminster, attempting to salvage the carcass of his beleaguered premiership.

Donald Trump called the Chagos deal an act of great stupidity. He was being generous.

It's even worse than that – it's a signal that Britain no longer understands power, leverage or consequence. If this is what "stabilising the international order" looks like, then China will be absolutely delighted.

VIRGINIA BLACKBURN

"The great advantage about telling the truth is that nobody ever believes it."
Dorothy L. Sayers

MY CHAMPAGNE GLASS IS ALWAYS HALF FULL

Email me at virginia.blackburn@reachplc.com

Moderate movement down two-way Street

AT LAST some good news: Sir Andy Street and Baroness Ruth Davidson are launching a movement to bring moderate voters into the Tory Party. Back in the day I knew Sir Andy very slightly: he is every bit as charming and delightful as he appears. But even more crucially, he has experience of the real world: before becoming West Midlands mayor, he rose up the ranks of John Lewis, eventually becoming its hugely successful managing director. I know less of Baroness Davidson, below, but she was a successful Conservative in Scotland, so that's good enough for me.

"SIR" Keir Starmer can dress up the reasons he blocked Andy Burnham all he wants, but it boils down to three words. Frit, frit, frit.

And this could not come at a better time, because these are people who understand that for an economy to be successful, it is absolutely essential to have a thriving private sector. My husband set up a number of businesses in his time and he continues to be shocked by the fact that the current government has no idea whatsoever of what running a business really entails.

They seem to see it as a war between evil, exploitative bosses and noble, put-upon workers, while their economic innumeracy is off the scale. Our utterly incompetent Chancellor has put a tax hike on jobs, raised business rates, threatened the entire farming industry and is ruining the lives of a generation by making it appear more desirable to live on benefits than work. They'll find out too late they were sold a dud steer.

Meanwhile the execrable tax-avoiding Angela Rayner continues to push for a "workers' rights" charter that will, in the long term, mean there aren't any more workers. Would you employ someone who you would find impossible to get rid of even if they went sick from day one?

My husband sometimes says that the mark of running your own business is to wake up at three o'clock in the morning wondering whether you've still got one. No one in the Labour party understands that. They come from backgrounds that involve trade unions and the professional political class. They are driven by an ideology that has failed every single time it has been put into action and to quote my husband yet again, they do not understand that you cannot generate wealth through taxation. But if you create more wealth, then you will receive more tax.

Personally, although I am warming to Kemi Badenoch, I cannot think of a better prospective PM than Sir Andy Street. He guided John Lewis through the financial wreckage of 2007/8, in the process overseeing a 50% increase in the company's sales – some record. He is also an experienced politician.

Forget trying to get the wretched Andy Burnham into the Commons: he'd prove even more of an economic wrecking ball than the current lot. Put the call out for Andy Street.

Yank twang doesn't cramp Harry's style

HARRY Styles has come in for some stick: fans have bewailed the fact that in a recent video, his voice has a distinctly American twang. They say he's forgotten his Cheshire roots. Ah, c'mon, give him a break. He spends a lot of time in the States and some of it is bound to rub off.

I myself grew up just outside Chicago; as a child I had a US accent (no more) but as far as I could tell my very British mother sounded totally RP. Everyone around us in Illinois thought the same, but when we returned to Blighty during the holidays, the family shrieked, "You sound American!" We ultimately decided she must have parked somewhere in the mid-Atlantic. Eventually we returned for good and she lost the US notes completely. Odds are Harry will too.

HOTEL BATHROOM DOOR TREND LEAVING HONEY-MOONERS EXPOSED!

HOTELS are coming under fire for ditching bathroom doors; they're replacing solid wood with frosted and sometimes clear glass. Madness. I first noticed this trend in Dresden about 10 years ago when I was travelling with my friend Jill: we shared a room and thus an overexposed bathroom.

We are close chums, found it amusing and so granted each other solitude when needed but what, we asked each other, if a honeymooning couple had been in situ and one got a runny tummy? It wouldn't half put a dampener on the mood...

Rachel rips the sole out of business

AND so farewell then, Russell & Bromley. The quality shoemaker founded in 1873 survived two world wars, numerous recessions, two pandemics and the financial crash but not this business-hating Labour government.

They are reduced from 43 stores to three. I hope Rachel from Accounts is condemned to a lifetime of shoes that pinch and contain a stone lodged under the lining, preferably under the ball of the foot.

NIGELLA Lawson is to present The Great British Bake Off: believe me, people, it will end in tears. Those with long memories might recall that back in the day, Nigella hosted a talk show and it was a disaster. This was because, unlike her cooking programmes, she had to interact with people and it turned out that she was lacking in that one crucial factor... charm.

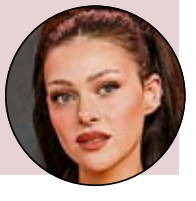
TGBBO might need a reboot, but it also needs a judge people warm to. Bring on the soggy bottom.

Mark Tully was royally revered

SAD TO hear of the death of Sir Mark Tully. A decade ago I was in Amritsar and was allocated a guide to show me the beautiful Golden Temple. "I am the best guide in Amritsar," he announced. "I have met your Queen, Philips [sic] and Mark Tully." And it was quite clear who he felt was the most royal of them all!

ONE OF the best new words to emerge in years is "Peltzy", shorthand for "insufferable and demanding". The more one hears about Brooklyn Beckham and Nicola Peltz's wedding, the more one thinks the spoilt brat is going to be punished for his disloyalty to his family.

The scion of the Beckham clan is married to a woman who bursts into tears when he dances with his own mother. Something tells me there are stormy skies ahead.



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SCAN ME

ON THE MONEY

by **Katie Elliott**

Any questions? Please email me at katie.elliott@reachplc.com

Spooked UK investors go for gold

GOLD is looking shinier than ever this week. The precious metal smashed through the $5,000-per-ounce (around £3,700) mark on Monday, hitting a new high as investors scramble for safety amid rising global unease.

It comes after a barrage of global drama in the first few weeks of 2026, from US efforts to capture Venezuela's President and escalating tensions in Iran, to a brief NATO row sparked by Donald Trump's demands over Greenland. Some of these tensions have cooled, but geopolitical instability is still very present.

For those managing pension pots, the question now is whether gold deserves a place in the portfolio. After all, it has been crowned the king of safe-haven assets over the last decade, and the figures are quite astonishing.

Calculations by AJ Bell show £10,000 invested in gold 10 years ago would be worth £43,198 today, having risen over 50% in 2025. After factoring in inflation, that £10k investment would still be worth £30,904.

Cash returns, on the other hand, are significantly lower. The calculations also showed that £10,000 invested in cash 10 years ago would now only be worth £8,325 after inflation. Markets respond to uncertainty by running for cover. Gold, long seen as a hedge against inflation and currency swings, is one of the biggest beneficiaries.

But before anyone starts rushing to invest, there are a few things to consider. Gold doesn't pay interest or dividends; its returns depend entirely on price movements, which can reverse as quickly as they rise.

Mike Ambery, retirement savings director at Standard Life, put it well when he said gold can have a place "alongside long-term growth assets like equities," but it should usually play a supporting role, not a starring one. He added: "What really matters is how gold fits into your wider retirement plan.

For most people, it's about balance and moderation rather than making big changes based on recent performance."

If you are considering adding gold to a pension, there are two main routes. You could opt for physical gold, which can be held within a Self-Invested Pension Portfolio (SIPP), though storage rules can add cost and complexity.

Alternatively, you could opt for gold ETCs (Exchange Traded Commodities), which are funds that track gold prices. This means you don't have to handle any yourself.

But before you do anything, check if your pension allows you to invest in gold, as not every scheme does. Secondly, be aware of the costs, from vaulting fees or ongoing charges, as these can cut into returns over time. Speak with a financial adviser before making any moves.

DEAL OF THE WEEK

IF YOU join the John Lewis rewards scheme for free and download the app, you can nab one free cake and hot drink in all stores apart from Canary Wharf, Horsham and Ipswich. Rewards are updated every month, so make sure to check the app regularly.

A STAGGERING six in 10 households are paying the maximum amount their energy providers can charge for gas and electricity – by choice.

When you translate the price that some Britons are paying for the pleasure of this, it becomes even more concerning.

According to MoneySuperMarket, around 10% of customers who switched using its platform knocked an average of £865 per year off their energy bills, as of December 2025. That is an enormous saving.

Those paying the maximum amount are customers who are still on their providers' Standard Variable Rate (SVR) tariff.

These tariffs track the price cap, and at present, they typically cost people hundreds of pounds more than the top fixed rate tariffs.

With wintry Met Office warnings and the "Beast from the East" set to rear its head next week, now is the time to check if you can swap tariffs and turn the radiator up.

Log in to your energy account and check if you're locked into a deal. If you are, check the terms to see if there are any charges for leaving early. Next, work out if it will be better for you in the long run to ditch and switch.

If you're on an SVR tariff, you can leave without paying exit fees. Experts at TotallyMoney say switching suppliers takes just five working days, and if the new supplier doesn't complete the switch within that timeframe, you'll be entitled to £40 in compensation, which is payable within 10 days.

Pictures: RAY BURMINSTON

‘I am not scared of anyone except my mum... she calls me Timothy and if she says it with a Jamaican slant she means it’

BY **MARC BAKER** and **FRAN BOWDEN**

Tim Campbell with his mother on a night out

With Jasmine and their two children. Right, Tim with his boss, Alan Sugar in 2005

LORD Sugar’s pointed finger and boardroom bellow of “you’re fired” is enough to make The Apprentice’s contestants and viewers alike quake in their boots.

But not Tim Campbell. The winner of the show’s first series is far more frightened of his mum.

He says: “My mum is so wise. She taught me that when you look in the mirror, you can’t change who you are.

“If someone has a [negative] view of you then whose problem is that? Go and find another place.”

But he adds: “My mother calls me Timothy. Not Tim. And when she says it with a Jamaican slant you know she means it. That’s why I am not afraid of anybody.”

Being fearless and willing to take risks – something he says Lord Sugar likes – earned Tim the victory in 2005 and with it a £100,000 job at the business guru’s firm Amstrad.

He beat Saira Khan in the final, who went on to TV fame on Loose Women, among other shows.

The win also led to Tim becoming a regular on-screen aide to Lord Sugar, a role he will carry out alongside West Ham FC vice-chairman Karren Brady when The Apprentice launches its 20th series tonight.

Co-founder of the Bright Ideas Trust Tim, awarded an MBE in 2012 for his services to enterprise culture, is very straight-talking.

Asked whether some contestants are clueless, the 48-year-old replies candidly: “Some of them are... but some of them learn.

Adrenaline

“Most of them learn along the way and what you see as we progress through the series is the cream usually rises.

“And people in pressurised scenarios will make mistakes.

“It is really easy to sit back and say ‘I would have done 10 times better than that’. I guarantee you, when the adrenaline is pumping and the cameras are in your face, mistakes are likely to happen.”

Tim, who lives in London with his wife Jasmine and two children, Kayla and Aaron, wants viewers to be kinder to contestants.

He says: “Most shows are about individualism and about killing everybody else, like The Traitors. I love The Traitors. But with the show [The Apprentice] as in business, you have to empower other people to come with you.

“I want people to make mistakes and learn and build up resilience.

“Don’t get me wrong, as you can see from my furrowed brow, sometimes the mistakes baffle me.

“But I would encourage people to have a level of empathy.

“It is easy to write people off.

“You have got to remember we are making a TV programme, but these are real human beings and I always have a level of empathy with somebody who is willing to take a risk because of the big reward at the end of it. If I told my children everything they did was a mistake then they would never have learned to walk. My first reaction was to help them up and encourage them to go again.”

Yet, despite the doors that winning The Apprentice opened for him, Tim – who is speaking at the Oxford Union – says he would not have gone on the show if he had not made mistakes in work.

He admits: “If I had made wiser decisions earlier on in my career, I probably would not have applied for The Apprentice.”

Show winners these days get a £250,000 investment in their business and a 50/50 partnership with Lord Sugar but Tim says: “It was not an investment then, it was for a job. The format is different now.

“Coming from a working class background, somebody dangled a six-figure salary in front of me. It was somebody I respected, as I had one of his Amstrad computers, so I thought ‘sod this, I am applying’.

Scrutiny

“But the world of work has changed now. If I had made wiser decisions I would [already] have been on another trajectory.”

He feels sympathy for contestants now, subject as they are to intense scrutiny on social media from anyone who cares to look. He explains: “Today they can catch your data, your social media profiles leave footprints. You can Google stuff and find out stupid things I did when I was on the show, but most of the stuff from my teenage years you are never going to know about.

“Thank goodness that is the case. I feel sorry for the generation now where the scrutiny is huge.”

Tim has been open about his own business setbacks – launching a fragrance business that was then abandoned and co-founding a digital marketing agency that was dissolved. But he says that failure does not have to mean disaster.

He explains: “When I failed, I realised no one gave a sh**.

“In my head it was massive and the worst thing in the world... it was disastrous. But I learned that the world is going to keep turning regardless of what I do.” As a success-focused entrepreneur, he is also keen to advise business people that any difference they may have in their sector can be empowering, not restricting.

He says: “My honest advice is ‘be comfortable in who you are’.”

“I have to be comfortable with who I am and that took time.

“I say use your difference as a powerful tool. If I am the only Black man in the space, I can’t disappear, but I don’t want to be forgotten.” Taking his mum’s advice and accepting himself, warts and all, has certainly worked for Tim.

But he admits he is glad not to be under the same pressure as the new crop of candidates. He says: “I love my position of sitting back and wondering what I would do.”

● *The Apprentice starts tonight at 9pm on BBC1, also on iPlayer.*

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Trustpilot

‘Libby lost her life but has saved countless women’

Mum of murdered student on her tireless campaign to protect others

BY **LUCY THORNTON**

LISA Squire refuses to give up. Even in the face of unimaginable loss she campaigns tirelessly to protect women and girls.

Her steely determination is born out of tragedy – her 21-year-old daughter Libby’s life was snuffed out by vile sex predator Pawel Relowicz.

On the eve of the grim seven-year anniversary of her rape and murder, Lisa is still searching for answers about her darling girl’s last moments.

But evil Relowicz, 26, has twice snubbed her pleas to meet.

Lisa, 52, says: “He’s an absolute coward. He doesn’t like strong women or women, at the end of the day.

“I applied the first time and it took me right through to the end and then said he wouldn’t see me, he was appealing his sentence.

“So then I reapplied the second year and he said ‘No’ straight away, which completely destroyed me. I thought ‘You’re playing a game with me’.”

University student Libby was attacked in Hull, East Yorks, after leaving a nightclub on February 1, 2019.

But it took 48 days before her body was finally found floating in the Humber Estuary on March 20.

Lisa describes those days as absolute torture. “I think that not knowing where she was, was actually harder than knowing that she was dead,” she says.

Lisa with Libby’s ashes in her bedroom, where she works; inset left, killer Pawel Relowicz; below, Lisa and Libby in a family snap

Vile

Relowicz, a Polish married dad-of-two who had carried out a string of other vile sex crimes in the months before, was jailed for life at Sheffield crown court in 2021.

Lisa says: “We still don’t know how she died, we’re left with two possibilities: strangulation and or suffocation.

“I know her date of birth but I don’t know what time she died. There’s only one man who knows that but he’s a psychopath and won’t tell me.

“I won’t ask again because that’s the only bit of control he’s got.”

Relowicz should be scared of Lisa, she is such a strong woman.

Her It Does Matter campaign has changed legislation to stop brutes like him claiming more lives.

She has fought to get non-contact sexual offences, such as flashing, taken seriously and treated like the red flag to murder it can be. Police now highlight this in training.

Lisa also tirelessly campaigns for whole life sentences for convicted killers. She says: “I can’t believe it’s been seven years since I’ve spoken to Libby and seven years since I held her. It’s still like it happened yesterday.”

Recalling the moment police called family with the news a body had been found, Lisa says: “I remember just sitting down on the sofa and handing Russell [Libby’s dad] the phone, and it was like I was the only person in the room. I knew she was dead but having it confirmed was so tough.

“It felt like my already broken heart was physically breaking again.”

She ignored police advice not to see the body. “I needed to be with her again. I remember going into the room and just felt like I’d won the lottery because I could hold her hand, stroke her face and give her a kiss.

“I told her, ‘No one’s gonna hurt you again’. It was the most healing thing I have done in this entire seven years because I don’t think I’d be doing what I do today without having seen her. It brought me so much comfort. I think many would probably think it’s a weird thing to want to do. But I needed to do it.”

When Libby was recovered from the river, a gold necklace with the letter L, was still around her neck.

Ashes

“I only gave it to her four weeks beforehand for her 21st birthday, January 1,” Lisa, also mum to Beth, remembers. “It was almost like she was saying ‘Look you might not know it’s me, but the L will prove it’. It was part of me with her when she was away from me.”

That necklace has now been returned to her childhood bedroom in High Wycombe, Bucks, which remains largely untouched. Her ashes sit on the bed, along with soft toys.Lisa’s desk is there, and she explains: “The work I am doing is all about her, so it feels like the perfect place to do my ‘Libby work’.”

She goes on: “I don’t want a gravestone for Libby, having people walk past whispering, ‘That’s the girl who was raped and murdered’. I want her to be remembered as a girl who lost her life in the most horrendous way but because of her numerous women have been saved. She came back against the odds, proved he had raped her by holding on to the DNA.

“In death she has made a huge difference,” she says. “In her death countless women have been saved and that’s what I want her legacy to be.”

At Lady Violet's masquerade ball

Bridgerton tailor maid

Household staff take centre stage in

BY **JAMIE DOWNHAM**

BRIDGERTON is back today – and this time fans will get to have a look at the lives of the downstairs staff, all with the usual romance from the get-go.

When Benedict Bridgerton, played by Luke Thompson, meets a mysterious girl in a silver dress at a masquerade ball, he is obsessed.

Little does he know she is maid Sophie Baek, played by Yerin Ha, who slipped into the party wearing a mask.

Ha, 28, who is a newcomer to the hit Netflix show's cast, says: "What drew me to Sophie as a character was her strong moral compass.

"She doesn't change who she is for anybody else.

"She is faced with a lot of obstacles, but she moves through them with such grace and kindness."

This series, the action centres on the Bridgerton family's bohemian second son Benedict, who had previously refused to settle down until he meets this mysterious stranger.

He enlists his sister Eloise, played by Claudia Jessie, to find her, all the while wondering why he's so drawn to maid Sophie. Actor Luke, 37, says: "We have experienced Benedict through the seasons as a little theme that crops up occasionally now and again.

"To get to spend a full eight episodes digging into him and making a whole symphony about him, it's great."

He adds: "For the first time, we're going downstairs and finding out about all the servants who work there.

"There are all sorts of characters, not just Sophie, that we've seen in the background who are suddenly coming to the fore, which is really exciting.

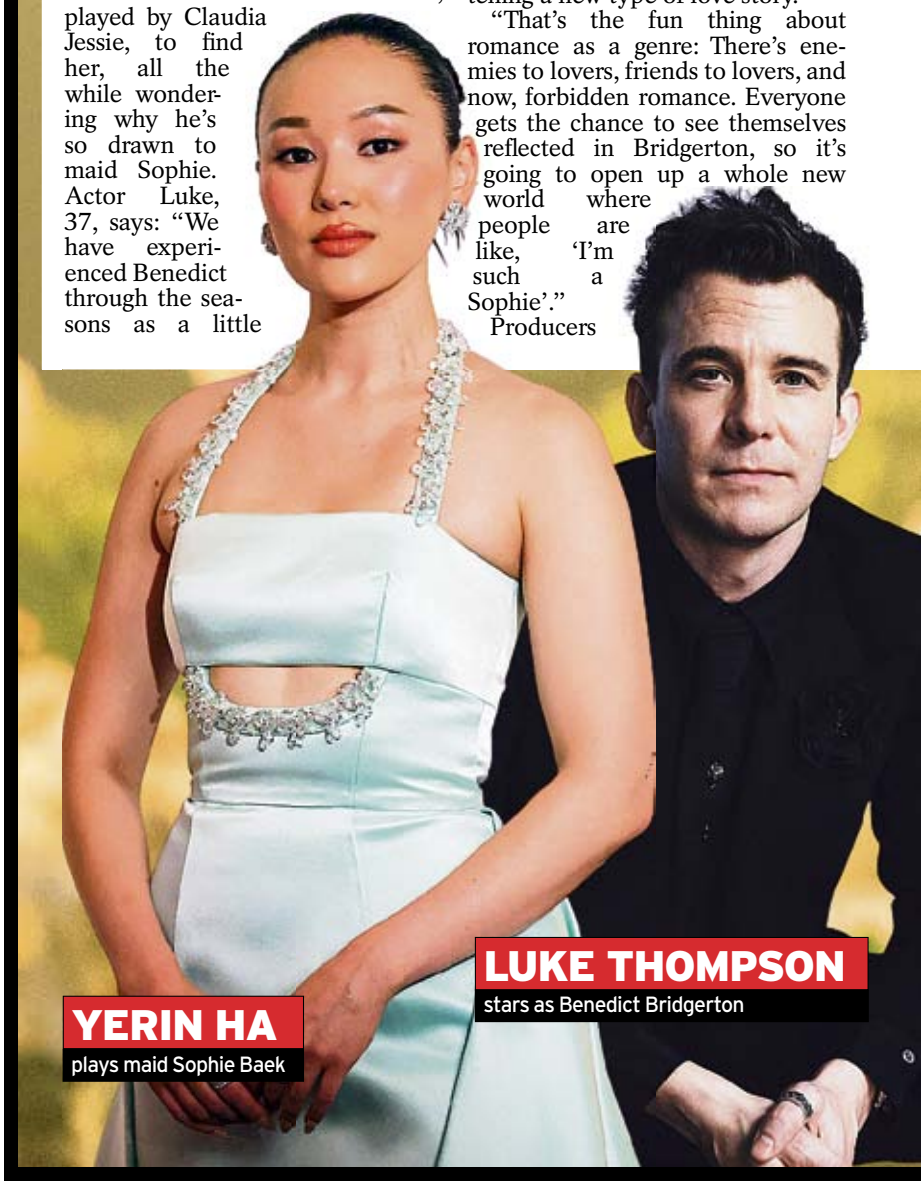
"What Benedict finds hardest is that he can't have his cake and eat it, too."

Also returning to the series, which is set in a dazzling version of Regency London, is Nicola Coughlan.

The actress, whose character Penelope is now happily married to Colin Bridgerton, says: "The most exciting part about this season is telling a new type of love story.

"That's the fun thing about romance as a genre: There's enemies to lovers, friends to lovers, and now, forbidden romance. Everyone gets the chance to see themselves reflected in Bridgerton, so it's going to open up a whole new world where people are like, 'I'm such a Sophie'."

Producers



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love story for fans

new series of the Netflix hit

pulled out all the stops for the masquerade ball, with a huge team of experts bringing together the costumes, hats, flowers, jewellery and feasts the show is famous for.

Nicola, 39, adds: "Every ball in Bridgerton is so lavish and beautiful and different.

"They're just the best design team in the world because they manage to make every ball really distinctive.

"It had a real fairy tale quality too, in keeping with what this story is."

Penelope and Colin – or "Polin" to fans – were the central characters in the previous series, and Luke Newton, who plays him, said they took more of a back seat this time. He says: "It was nice for the focus to shift, and to play this new version of Colin and Penelope. Last season, there weren't many moments where we could just sit and be happy. There was always some drama around the corner, whereas this season it's nice to sit in that and enjoy a moment of peace."

The first four new episodes of Bridgerton are available to watch on Netflix from today, with the final four due to be released on February 26

Luke says Colin's ball costume was inspired by the show's millions of fans.

He says: "I remember having a conversation with Jess [Brownell], our showrunner, early on, and she told me that Colin was going to go as a pirate – and it came from the fans, which is a really cool moment.

"The fans coined him 'sexy pirate' in season three, and I feel weird even saying that about myself, but we're talking about a character here, as Colin. Knowing the history of Colin's travels and the people he would've come across, for him to go full pirate was really fun to play."

Sophie is joined by her stepmother and stepsisters and actress Katie Leung, who played Harry Potter's love interest Cho Chung, appears as her employer, Lady Araminta Gunr.

Twice married and twice widowed, she lashes out when anything threatens her standing in society. Katie, 38, says: "I'm always seeing it from Araminta's perspective. So when she's asking Sophie to polish all her shoes, she's complimenting her on how great she is as a maid. But Sophie probably thinks differently.

"For that reason, there is tension between the two."

Showrunner Jess hopes fans will love seeing the action switch between "the ton" – the elite high-society group in Bridgerton – and the household staff.

She says: "We lived in the world of the ton for the first three seasons and got the audience acquainted with who these people are and what the rules are.

"We feel people fully understand those rules. Now let's crack the world open, go downstairs, and explore how different it is."

Sophie and Benedict

Yerin Ha as Sophie Baek, David Moorst as Alfie

'For the first time, we're going downstairs and finding out about all the servants who work there'

By **Hannah Britt**

HELEN Flanagan has revealed sexualised storylines she was given in Corrie as a teenager before the Me Too movement made her feel uncomfortable.

The actor was just 16 when her character Rosie Webster, daughter of Sally and Kevin, had an underage affair with her teacher.

At 15, even younger than Helen was at the time, Rosie was shown "seducing" John Stape, played by Graeme Hawley, who later kidnapped her and held her hostage after the affair was exposed.

Now 35, Helen is raising questions around the scenes and the way she was portrayed in the soap, which she joined aged nine.

The actress says: "Was it morally right that I was expected to parade about in my knickers like some mad nymphomaniac when I was still just a teenager?

"Alison King, who plays Carla Connor, once kicked off in the green room, saying how disgusting it was that they were sexualising me when I was a young girl. I didn't fully comprehend what she was talking about at the time. I do now. I get it.

"I had to do kissing and bedroom scenes with a man a lot older than me. Obviously the actor [Graeme Hawley] was lovely, but I don't think it would happen now.

"When you're 16 you don't really know what's going on and I was just happy to get the big storylines.

"But I had scenes as Rosie which didn't always sit comfortably with me. I felt minging post-shoot.

"Everything has changed now, which I'm glad about. They wouldn't write it in quite the same way all these years later and since the Me Too movement."

Mum-of-three Helen finds her current role quite different. She is playing Catherine in the Shelagh Stephenson play The Memory of Water, which opens today at Bolton's Octagon Theatre.

And now she has an intimacy co-ordinator, to make sure she is comfortable with everything. "Back then you just got on with it," she says of Corrie.

But the star does admit she finds using her sexuality empowering – as long as it is on her terms.

She says: "I post sexy pictures. I work for different lingerie brands. I enjoy that. I like to feel sexy. I like to feel empowered and in control.

"That's the difference. I've turned up to some shoots which I didn't know would be so 'sexy', thinking it would be unprofessional to object, and been in tears."

During the past few years, Helen's life off camera has drawn more attention than her acting.

She split from her footballer ex Scott Sinclair, 36, who is the father of her three children, Matilda, 10, Delilah, seven, and Charlie, four, in 2022 amid cheating rumours.

Helen Flanagan and ex-partner Scott Sinclair

As Rosie, posing in lingerie advert with Jason Grimshaw, played by Ryan Thomas

Joining the ITV soap's cast as a nine-year-old in January 2000

Helen claims Scott, who played for Chelsea, Manchester City and Aston Villa, has broken her heart all over again by deciding to sell the £1million family home in Belmont, Lancashire.

She says: "I'll always love Scott, but he's really let me down.

"His decision to sell the family home has broken my heart. His reason for selling is financial, as he isn't currently signed to a football club, but it makes me angry when he spends money on fancy holidays and constant trips to Dubai.

"Scott has other properties he could sell, too – his mother lives in a house similar to mine and yet that hasn't been put up for sale. I worry about my future and my security. I have to work constantly to make ends meet. He's the father of my kids, but their dad's a wealthy guy."

In her book, Head & Heart: Break-ups, Breakdowns and Being Rosie, Helen, who is currently single, is critical of her ex. She says: "I was with him for 13 years, he was my whole 20s. We don't speak, we don't communicate at all. I do find it just really sad. I never wanted it to be this way.

'I find it really sad. As a woman, I've had to be strong. And this is me having my voice'

"As a woman, I've had to be strong. And this is me having my voice. I've upset the apple cart, but why should I keep quiet? What would I want Matilda to do? I would like Matilda to have her voice."

Scott is not the only man to have broken Helen's heart.

After they split, she briefly dated former boxer David Haye and heavily denies rumours of being involved in a throuple with him and his girlfriend Sian Osborne.

Helen, who appeared on the 2012 series of ITV's I'm A Celebrity, and in the 2023 All Stars edition, met David on the show and dated him knowing he had an open relationship. She says: "He doesn't know he's in the book.

"I do think he loves Sian. And I do think he loved me. I just don't think he really knows how to love anyone."

Born in Bury, Greater Manchester, Helen joined Corrie in 2000. She left in 2012, returning briefly between 2017 and 2018 – and doesn't rule out going back a third time.

She says: "The first time [on Corrie] I was always getting the main storylines. Returning and not kind of getting those was

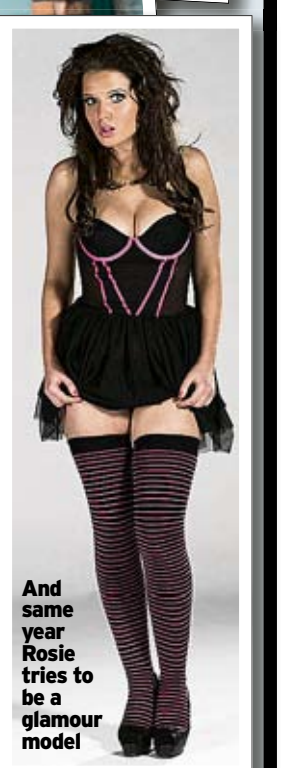
Helen's memoir, £22, is available via Mirror Books, mirrorbooks.co.uk

Former street star Helen Flanagan on how Corrie sexualised her when she was a teen

I had scenes which did not always sit comfortably with me... was it right I was expected to parade around in my knickers at 16?

As teenage Rosie in 2008 in scene in which her character tries to seduce her boss Tony Gordon

Polishing car in very short shorts in one 2009 Corrie scene



And same year Rosie tries to be a glamour model

tough. But I'd love to return at some point. I'm a very normal, northern working-class girl, so Coronation Street really changed the circumstances of my life." She quit because of a mental health crisis and an eating disorder, which led to "self-harm by scratching" and "surviving on cups of powdered soup".

With kids Matilda, Delilah and Charlie

BUT Helen does not blame Corrie, adding: "It would have happened to me no matter what job I was doing."

Open about her diagnoses of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), she has also suffered suicidal ideation and intrusive thoughts. In January 2024, she suffered a terrifying breakdown after an adverse reaction to prescription medication.

She says: "It was the worst time that I've ever struggled with my mental health. I do think the medication was really bad for me, but I became quite addicted to it."

It came when her relationship with Scott was also tricky and she was working full blast as well as being a single mum. She says: "He really wasn't playing fair. So I had quite a lot of financial stuff going on as well and the stress of solicitors. I was also totally heartbroken after David Haye.

"It just all became too much and I began to experience psychosis. I thought I was being watched, filmed, hunted, possibly even drugged. I was seeing things that weren't there.

"It was really frightening – I thought my kids were going to be taken away."

Supported by her parents and therapists, she spent months rebuilding herself and started writing her book. She says: "I don't think Scott will read it… but he might hear about some of the things I have to say."

Helen hopes her book will help others struggling with their mental health. She says: "When you talk about mental health, it saves people's lives. And it makes you feel less on your own."

No longer taking medication, she's learning to manage her own mental health struggles, and the future is feeling brighter. She says: "It's not just going to go away. Sometimes your brain is wired more differently – mine is. And mental health is something that's in my family as well.

"I have three children that are half me, so I have tried to be more educated about mental health and how to deal with it in healthy ways - because maybe one day one of my children might have some struggles.

"For me, healthy ways are therapy, talking and exercise. It feels like everything's coming together now. I've come a long way and I'm really proud of myself. Onwards and upwards."

Coronation Street has been approached for comment.

Pictures: ALEX JAMES

Raid reveals £2m haul of stolen tools

BY **PAUL JEEVES**

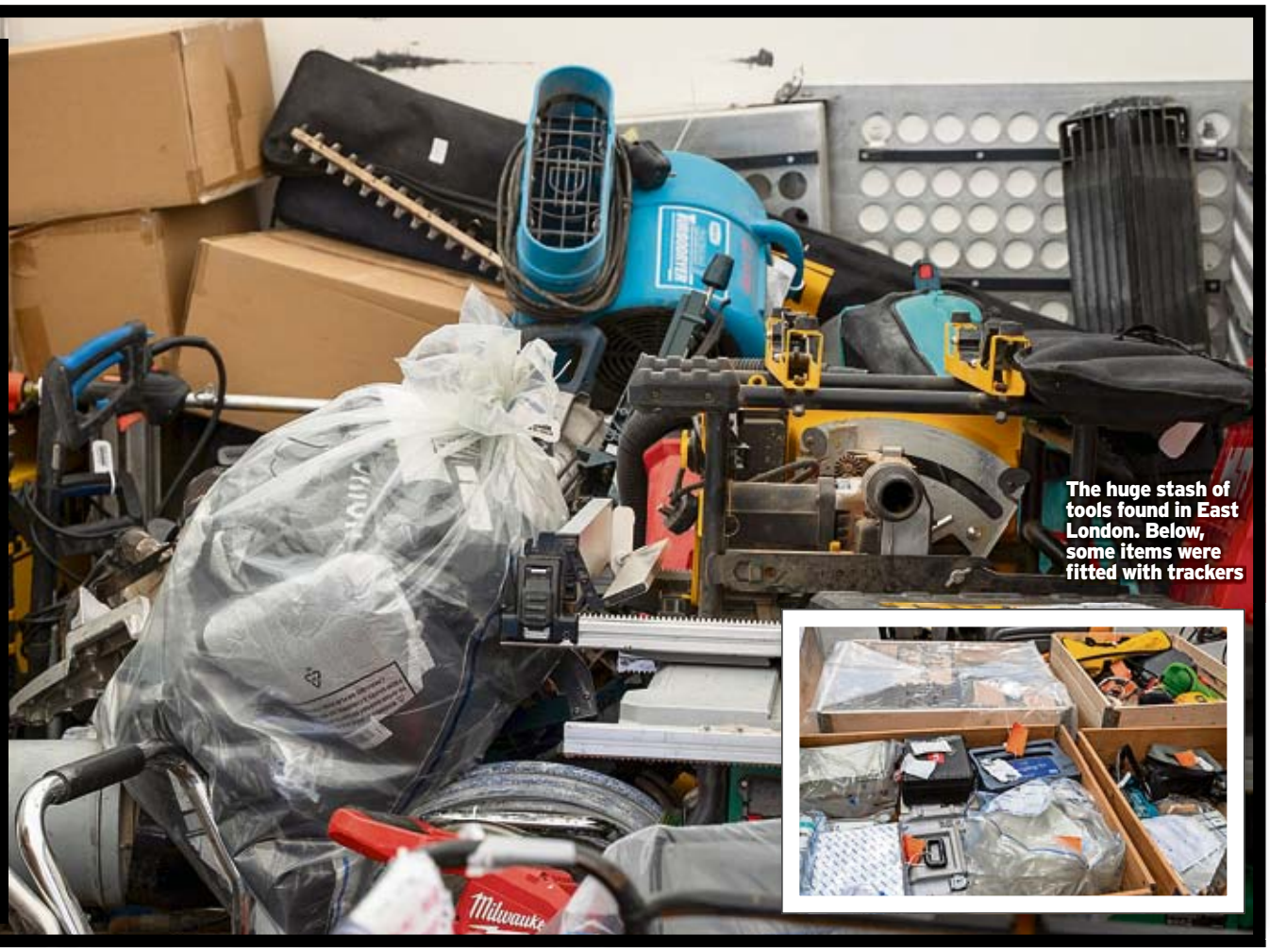
POLICE have seized what is believed to be the largest stash of stolen tools ever found in the UK after uncovering a £2million haul.

A construction firm reported that high-value equipment had been stolen from a site in Tilbury, Essex.

Using a tracking device fitted to the tools, Met officers traced the goods to a property in Ilford earlier this month. Two suspects were arrested and a third detained at another address.

The trio are thought to be part of an organised crime group that resells equipment online in the UK and Europe.

Insp Mark Connolly, of the Met, said: "This is one of the largest recoveries we've made and sends a clear message."



The huge stash of tools found in East London. Below, some items were fitted with trackers

Davidson, known as Ross Wild

Jurors find ex-Spandau Ballet singer guilty of rape

BY **HELEN WILLIAM**

A FORMER Spandau Ballet singer has been convicted of raping one woman and attempting to rape another.

Ross Davidson, 37, known on stage as Ross Wild, had performed in 2018 as the singer for the 1980s favourites and appeared in Queen-based West End musical We Will Rock You.

He had denied raping a woman in London in 2015, and the attempted rape and sexual assault of another woman in Thailand in 2019, claiming his actions were consensual.

But a jury found him guilty yesterday at Wood Green crown court in North London.

Davidson of Finchley, North London, had earlier admitted voyeurism against the woman in Thailand in 2019 after secretly filmed footage of her sleeping was found on his phone.

Prosecutor Richard Hearnden said Davidson had been thought of as "a bit of a sex symbol" but that the two women said he had "a much darker side".

A date for sentencing will be set at a hearing next month.

'End assisted dying delays'

Supporters could use Parliament Act to bypass Lords

BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor

ASSISTED dying legislation could be forced through without the agreement of the House of Lords, supporters have suggested.

Opponents have been accused of time wasting and tabling unnecessary amendments to run down the clock.

The Bill will fall if it does not pass a third reading in the Lords, with both Houses agreeing on the final text, before the end of the Parliamentary session – which is expected to be in early May.

Its sponsor in the Lords, Charlie Falconer, last night warned that supporters may invoke the Parliament Act if opponents do not allow the debate to progress. This rarely used piece of legislation allows MPs to pass a Bill without the agreement of the Lords.

Lord Falconer said: "Together with Kim Leadbeater MP, who introduced the Bill in the Commons, I have sought advice on ways forward.

"While we would strongly urge the Lords to come to a conclusion while there is still time, the Parliament Act is an option. One way or another, Parliament has to come to a decision." Use of the Act would involve reintroducing the Bill in the next parliamentary session and repeating votes among MPs.

Only seven Acts of Parliament have been passed this way since the Act was introduced in 1911.

Lord Falconer said the Bill had the support of the elected chamber and the majority of the public.

He added: "Thousands of families with personal experience of the cruelty and injustice of the current law are depending on Parliament to deliver on the promise to legislate. If opponents think this issue will just go away if it's talked out in the Lords, then they are wrong."

Of the 59 clauses in the Bill, peers have not yet concluded debate on Clause 1. More than half of the 1,200 amendments have been put forward by just seven opponents of the Bill.

Lord Falconer said there is still time for the House to "do its proper job of scrutiny and proposing amendments so that the Bill can go back to the Commons before the end of the session".

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Thank you for giving me my freedom back

£1.65m gene editing sees boy flourish

Adam with his parents and nurse Clair Baron

BY **ELLA PICKOVER**

A BOY who was one of the first children to be given a £1.65million treatment has returned to the hospital to thank his nurse for his cure.

Adam Rehman was given a one-time gene editing therapy to cure the blood disorder thalassaemia.

Casgevy, also known as exa-cel, was the first treatment to be licensed using gene-editing tool Crispr, which earned its inventors the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 2020.

The treatment works by editing the faulty gene in a patient's stem cells.

A confidential deal has been struck between the NHS and manufacturer Vertex, which means it is likely to be paying less than the official price of £1.65million per patient.

Anaemia

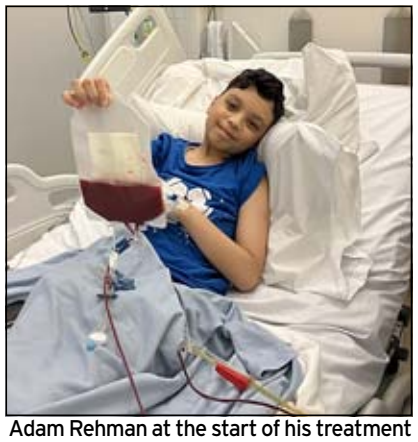
Adam, 13, from Oldham, was born with beta-thalassaemia, an inherited blood disorder that means the haemoglobin in the blood does not work properly, affecting how oxygen is carried around the body.

Symptoms include anaemia and chronic pain, and in severe cases the condition can be life threatening.

Since he was eight months old, Adam relied on monthly blood transfusions. His older sister, who had the same condition, was given a stem cell transplant in 2023 but no stem cell match could be found for Adam.

In November 2024, he had the specialist treatment, which involves his stem cells being collected and taken to a laboratory where the Crispr technology is used.

The edited cells are then infused back, which prompts the body to produce healthy red blood cells. Now Adam has reunited with his specialist nurse, Clair Baron, at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, where he had his treatment.



Adam Rehman at the start of his treatment

Adam, who is back at school, said: "It's really good to see Clair and to be able to say thank you to her – she was the start of my treatment. But it is nice to have my freedom back and not be in hospital any more!"

Adam's father, Anzaq Rehman, 43, added: "We're so grateful for the role Clair played in Adam's journey. She was that first step towards where we are now and that's so special."

Ms Baron said: "It's absolutely wonderful to see Adam, it really is."

Teresa Baines, of NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "Gene therapies are truly life-changing treatments.

"By collecting the cells, our teams are setting patients off on their journey – and that's a real privilege.

"Having Adam visit and hearing how much the treatment has changed his life really does help to see how important the work that we do is."

Operation Overlord plans could be yours for £100k

A TOP-secret blueprint for the D-Day landings could fetch up to £100,000 at auction.

The document is dated July 30, 1943 – almost a year before the Allied invasion of Normandy, codenamed Operation Overlord.

It was drawn up by "the forgotten architect of D-Day", Lt Gen Frederick E Morgan, and showcases his cautious approach.

The plan was prepared four months before the Tehran Conference where Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt officially approved the campaign.

The blueprint and its accompanying maps

Declassified from "Most Secret" in 1958, it include maps passed to a relative of a senior military officer.

Matt Crowson of Hansons Auctioneers, who is leading next month's sale, said: "This complete archive is one of the most important museum-grade finds to appear on the open market in recent years."

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'Frozen will grow for financial and environmental reasons... and it's getting more exciting'

Shoppers will use their gut instincts to buy healthier food in 2026

FORGET scribbled shopping lists, social media trends were the driving force steering supermarket trolleys down the aisles last year. Dubai chocolate and other viral sensations flew off stores' shelves, spurred on by Instagram images of exotic delights.

This year, however, will see consumers take back control of their baskets and make more mindful choices based on health and finances, according to experts.

As the cost-of-living crisis bites, customers are setting their standards higher than ever when it comes to value for money. And with greater awareness around how ultra-processed foods can affect gut health, products that boost wellbeing will also be a factor in what we buy.

So what does this mean for the supermarket landscape?

More fibre-rich food on shelves

PROTEIN has been one of the largest wellness crazes in recent years, with gym-goers in particular becoming hyper-aware of how much of the nutrient they are consuming in a day.

This year, fibre is expected to be the macronutrient on everyone's mind. In fact, Waitrose's 2026 Food & Drink Report found that getting enough fibre is the biggest concern of health-conscious consumers.

"Fibre in many ways is becoming more important than protein in the eyes of consumers," says Joe Woolf, owner of food marketing firm The Discovery Stand.

A recent YouGov/AHDB survey found 26% of UK consumers plan to reduce their consumption of ultra-processed foods this year, with 13% of them planning to up their fibre intake.

"There's a real shift towards fibre-rich, gut-friendly foods and plant-based options that don't feel like a compromise," says Caroline Morris, sales director at barbecue retailer Barbequick. "This shift towards more nutrients like fibre is already evident in Marks & Spencer, which is leading the charge with its new nutrient-dense range."

Aldi and Tesco are the main players when it comes to own-brand, health-conscious offerings, according to personal finance expert David Kindness.

"Britain's largest supermarket Tesco manages to combine affordability with a wide range of products, which is exactly what buyers will be looking for in 2026," he says.

Frozen foods out of the cold

A HOT contender for trolley space in 2026 is good-quality frozen food. "Gone are the days of frozen food having a bad name as this whole sector has firmly shaken off its old reputation," says Caroline. "Premium frozen products are booming as consumers look to save time without sacrificing quality or flavour."

This shift is evident in Waitrose, where specialist frozen items, such as pastries and high-end potatoes, soared by 322% in a year.

Tesco also recently revamped its frozen food offering for the first time since 2018, expanding its Finest frozen range with new pizzas, pies, poultry and fish.

With demand for these products growing, consumers can expect other supermarkets to follow suit.

David, of financial help platform BestMoney.com, says frozen veg will rise in popularity as they are cheaper but just as nutrient-dense as fresh produce, particularly in fibre.

Joe adds: "Frozen will continue to grow off the back of last year's growth, potentially as consumers become more and more aware of wastage – due to financial and environmental reasons, and because the options are getting more exciting."

Fricy flavours

EXPECT bold cuisine to steal the show with an emphasis on "fricy" – a mix of the fruity and spicy flavours commonly found in Thai and Mexican dishes. Online retailer Sous Chef has already reported soaring sales of "fricy" condiments.

New countries will make an appearance as world-food aisles widen, helping consumers explore unfamiliar cuisines, according to Patrick Finlay, managing director at food and drink consultancy firm The Category Management Company.

Swiss, Argentinian, Portuguese and US Southern foods are expected to be big while Korean cuisine will continue to thrive.

"Korean food continues to capture the nation's tastebuds," says James Campbell, director of innovation at Sainsbury's. "Whether it's the rise of at-home dining experiences or the influence of street-food culture, customers are increasingly looking for accessible ways to enjoy world flavours at home.

Banger-out-of-order EU laws will outlaw veggie 'sausages'

"Alongside our own-label range, there is strong interest in branded products which tap into the growing demand for fermented foods that support customers' broader nutritional goals.

"These products make it easier than ever for customers to experiment with the bold, balanced, deeply savoury flavours Korean cuisine is known for, without the need for specialist ingredients or advanced cooking techniques."

More own-brand labels

OWN-LABEL goods, often considered sub-par to mainstream brands, are quickly becoming the go-to option for shoppers – and not just those on a budget.

According to market research giant Kantar and IGD data, 53% of sales at Aldi, 67% at Lidl, and 52% at Tesco were made up of own-label goods towards the end of last year.

Meanwhile, own-label supermarket sales hit close to £1billion in December 2025, setting a new record.

Oisin Hanrahan, a Tesco-backed supply chain and supermarket expert, predicts 2026 to be the year own-label products become star buys in their own right.

Personal finance expert Kevin Marshall echoes this prediction, explaining they are a logical choice in today's challenging cost-of-living environment and an opportunity for supermarkets to rival premium labels. "The differences in quality [between brands and non-brands]

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CHECK OUT WHAT'S SWEEPING SUPERMARKETS

Following crazes for high-protein foods, veganism and Dubai chocolate, BRIAN DILLON reveals what consumers will be sticking in their shopping baskets this year

are almost unnoticeable," he says. Patrick Young, managing director of research company PRS IN VIVO, says this change means "brands will have to work harder to justify their price point".

The end of viral food trends

VIRAL food trends dominated shelves last year. Most notably, Dubai chocolate, a confectionary filled with chopped knafeh pastry and pistachio-tahini cream, which originated from the United Arab Emirates and sparked an explosion of pistachio-flavoured products in supermarkets and fast-food chains.

Social media was mostly behind the trend, and supermarkets jumped at the chance to profit from it.

But experts believe they will gradually disappear this year.

"I expect 2025 to mark the peak of overly viral, gimmick-led food trends or purely social media-driven products, with Dubai chocolate being a good example," says food PR expert Emily Keogh.

"This year supermarkets will be far more selective, focusing on products that combine excitement with genuine wellness benefits."

She expects the overarching food trend to be about "calm, balance and long-term health".

Vegan options vetoed

THE popularity of vegan food has exploded in recent years, with increasing numbers of Britons opting for an entire or partial plant-based diet.

But following lobbying from the livestock industry, the European parliament voted to ban key words including "steak", "burgers" and "sausages" to describe meat-free food in October. The European Commission and the governments of the EU's 27 member states still need to pass legislation to enforce this but if this happens, the UK government believes British businesses will be impacted.

Emily Keogh expects more 'exciting' healthy food in stores; top, dishes from Argentina could join them

HOORAY FOR HARPENDEN

Harpenden is the centre of attention after it was named Britain's top town

The Hertfordshire town has been crowned Britain's most desirable place to live once again. AARON NEWBURY visits to find out why

OUTSTANDING schools, a swift commute to London and the feel of a village with the amenities of a city. That combination has transformed the heavenly town of Harpenden from a historic market settlement into one of Britain's most sought-after addresses. Homes in the most exclusive corners here can reach £10million.

The town's roots stretch back to Roman times.

Objects dating from 150AD, including dishes used for drinking, have been found buried in the surrounding land.

Local historians say that in Old English, its old name, Hearpedenu means "harp valley"... and it certainly pulls at the heart strings .

When resident Anita Wicks moved to Harpenden, she had one priority: her children.

"Mostly it is the schools," the 42-year-old says as rain pelts down on the Hertfordshire town's high street outside. "We have got great schools here.

"I moved here to have a family, my kids get good schools and it is safe and clean for them."

Anita is far from alone in making that calculation. This town of just over 30,000 people has been rated the best place to live in the entire country in recent analysis by estate agency Savills, and its appeal is still clear despite the lacklustre weather that greets us when we arrive.

"The commute into London, well that is a real selling point," adds Anita.

"You can get from here to London quicker than you get from Outer London to the city."

The village emerged from the clearing of woods on manor land at Wheathampstead, land granted to Westminster Abbey by Edward the Confessor in 1060.

Walking through the town centre, it's hard to escape the history here – the oldest church, St Nicholas, began life back in 1217.

But it was the arrival of the railway in 1860, and then the Midland Railway main line in 1868, that truly opened up the town.

What had been a rural backwater became accessible to commuters from the big city, and perhaps that set the template for the town it is today.

During the Second World War, Harpenden served as a refuge, with children evacuated from London to its relative safety.

Ken Whittaker, 53, who runs the local independent estate agents' bearing his name, has lived in Harpenden since 1985. He understands better than most why buyers flock here. "Stations,

Anita Wicks picked the town for its quality schools

Ken Whittaker says buyers love town's transport links

High prices keep 'riff-raff' out says Tina Winter

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Trustpilot

Pictures: JONATHAN BUCKMASTER

schools, stations, schools. It is a commuter market," he explains. "King's Cross is 20 minutes by train. Blackfriars is 28. So if you work in the City, it is the best."

Ken says that 20 years ago, nearby St Albans commanded higher prices than Harpenden. But that has changed as time has gone by.

"St Albans has gotten bigger and bigger and bigger. And it now feels just a bit blended into North London. The schools are nowhere near as good. If you are a commuter you are not going to get a seat on the Luton line," he says.

"We often ask the question of Londoners when they are coming here 'out of interest, how did you come to settle upon Harpenden? You could live in Clapham or Wandsworth, so why here?'

"They say 'well, we drew a line around and we looked at commutability to the City, to Canary Wharf, then we look at the school league tables'.

"Different game. There are four senior schools here. They are all outstanding according to Ofsted. So are the junior schools. It is just a lovely place."

SCHOOLS are a consistent theme underscoring every conversation about the town. Many have been rated outstanding, even including junior schools. So for parents weighing up where to raise their children, those league tables carry enormous weight and influence over their decision.

"If you are a family, particularly, you are looking at commutability, schools," continues Ken.

"And if you look at just transport links, the A1, M1 and M25 are all within eight or 10 minutes.

"Train lines are fabulous and the airports – Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted – you can get to all those within an hour and 15 minutes tops."

Transport connectivity has made Harpenden a magnet for City workers and professionals who want country living without sacrificing their career prospects. But the influx has brought some challenges.

Tina Winter, 41, moved here from London years ago. "The commute is great. It is also like living in a village but with a town on your doorstep," she says.

"There is just a great atmosphere here. Sure, some complain the house prices are too high, a lot of that is driven by people moving up from London, but it keeps the riff-raff out." Not everyone is quite so sanguine about the property market, though.

One Spanish resident, who declines to give her name, is blunt in her assessment.

"It is very expensive here," she says. "The house prices, nobody can afford them. I prefer St Albans."

Park Avenue is the town's most expensive area, where houses change hands for up to (and sometimes exceeding) £10million.

It's one of the most expensive postcodes outside of London, and yet despite the rain and the exclusivity, locals are friendly and welcoming.

One resident even stops for a chat, which speaks to the community spirit that Anita and many others value.

Yet Harpenden has managed to retain its character despite the influx of wealth.

Anita emphasises the importance of supporting local businesses, praising the area's "loads of independent shops... it is really important people use them, to keep our high street alive".

Older residents still refer to "coming to town" when they talk about visiting Harpenden's thriving centre, a colloquialism that hints at the community's determination to maintain its village identity even as it has grown.

The town's appeal is undeniable for families with children, and even young professionals without.

Outstanding schools are matched with a 20-minute commute to central London, independent shops line the high street and there is access to major motorways and three international airports within 75 minutes.

Whether those advantages justify the bumper house prices that put ownership beyond the reach of many depends on your perspective.

For families such as Anita's, the calculation is clear. For others, like the Spanish resident who prefers St Albans, the premium is simply too steep.

But for those who can afford it, Harpenden offers something increasingly rare in modern Britain: a place that feels like a village, functions like a town, and connects to London like a suburb, all while maintaining the schools, safety and community spirit that families prize.

In an age when many towns struggle to define their identity, Harpenden has found a formula that works.

But whether it can maintain that balance going into the future, as more Londoners discover its charms, remains to be seen.

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Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	52	÷4	+59	75% OF THIS	REVERSE THE DIGITS	÷9	+52	÷3	-16	
Intermediate	9	SQUARE IT	+79	INCREASE BY 60%	+68	3/4 OF THIS	-84	÷3	+286	
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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28
LOTTERY
33 45 50 52 58 59 15

THUNDERBALL
3 6 14 22 24 4

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
EUROMILLIONS
4 23 42 43 47 3 9

THUNDERBALL
14 16 22 27 29 13

MONDAY, JANUARY 26
SET FOR LIFE
1 16 19 26 34 7

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28
9 11 15 40 46 16

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
13 23 26 39 40 11

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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Tuesday:
Was Suella Braverman right to defect to Reform UK?

YES: 75%
NO: 25%

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

		6			4			
	2	9	1		8	6		5
8				6			1	3
4		1			3		6	
		3	5		7	2		4
	9		8	4		1		
1	4			8				
2			4		1	8	5	
		8	3					1

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7	5	9	2	3	8	6	1	4
8	4	3	5	1	6	9	2	7
5	8	7	3	4	1	2	9	6
6	3	4	8	9	2	5	7	1
9	1	2	7	6	5	4	3	8
4	7	6	9	5	3	1	8	2
1	2	5	6	8	7	3	4	9
3	9	8	1	2	4	7	6	5

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The Mercury Cougar is an unusual colour

Tiny car sells for huge sum

BY **MARK BRANAGAN**

A MATCHBOX toy car has sold for a world record £22,050 – more than the real vehicle would cost.

The pale-yellow Regular Wheels 62c Mercury Cougar was one of just a few produced in 1968 before the paint was changed to lime green.

Estimated at £3,000 to £4,000, it sparked a global bidding war when it went under the hammer at Vectis Auctions in Stockton-on-Tees.

Auction official Ian Main said: "Ultimately it was two buyers that kind of broke away and just bid against each other to the price that we saw."

He added that the model came out just before Matchbox tried to compete with Hot Wheels by using "low-friction wheels" on all its toy vehicles.

Vectis Auctions said: "The clear windows without windscreen wipers and without a rear-view mirror confirms it is an early casting and hasn't been repainted.

"It also came with a correct type E4 box, which depicts the cream [yellow] model artwork."

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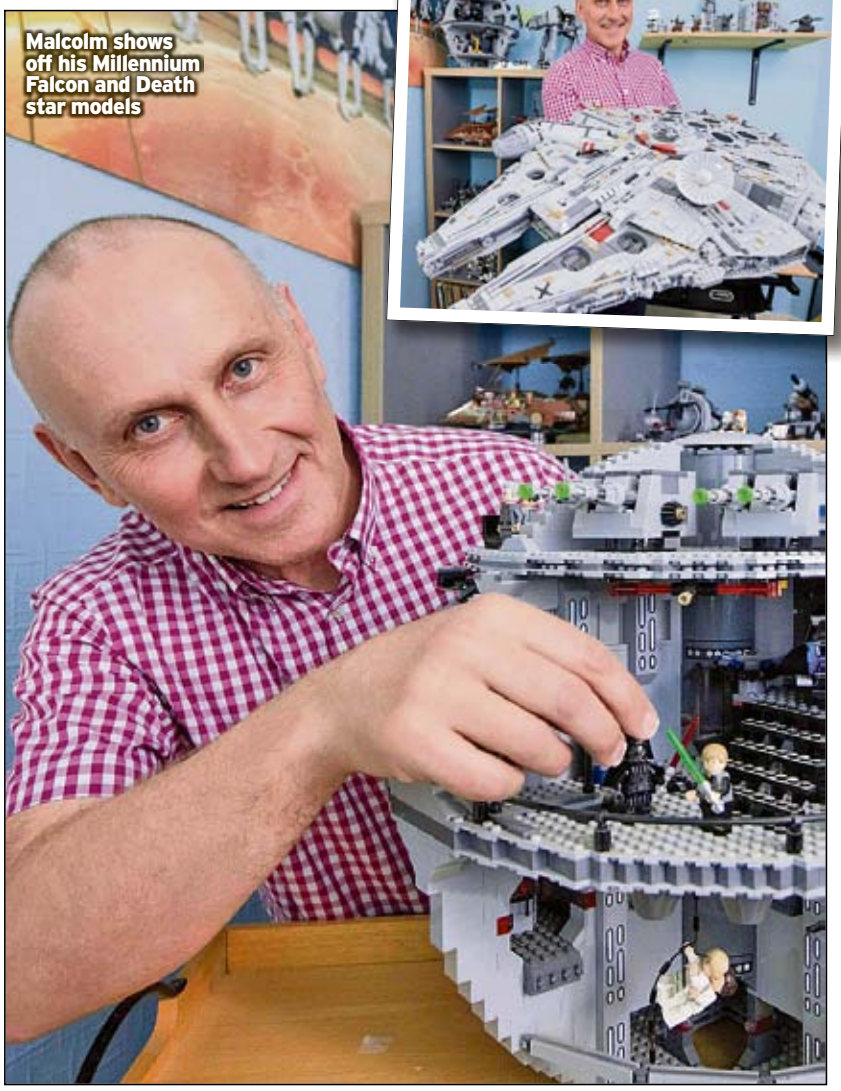


I bought a Lotto Lego

£1m winner runs out of space

A LOTTERY winner shows off his Million-ium Falcon after splashing his cash on Star Wars Lego.

Accountant Malcolm Haines, 54, won the seven-figure sum with a lucky dip ticket in 2021 and treated himself to his beloved brick-building model kits.

The sci-fi fan has bought so many – including a £550 Death Star and now the Millennium Falcon – that he's struggling to find space for them.

Dad-of-three Malcolm, who lives with wife Rebecca, 57, said: "I was buzzing when I pressed 'confirm purchase' on a £750 Lego Millennium Falcon. Once built, at almost three feet wingspan, it was the tipping point for abandoning the dining room table and creating a dedicated space."

Malcolm celebrates with wife Rebecca

The Watford FC fan, from Reading, Berks, has also been on dream trips to Peru, Canada and Iceland, but says Lego gives him the most pleasure.

He added: "I've thoroughly enjoyed the guilt-free investing in Lego, I'm quite literally like a kid in a toy shop."

BY **DAN WARBURTON**

DRUG DEALER, 80, WON JACKPOT IN 2010

AN elderly lottery winner has been jailed after building a drug empire worth up to £288million.

John Spiby, 80, and his gang that included his son John Jr, 37, flooded the North West with etizolam, aka "street valium", disguised as diazepam.

The ringleader, who won £2.4m in 2010, ran the operation out of his home in Wigan, Gtr Manchester, between 2020 and 2022.

Spiby Sr was jailed for 16 years and six months at Bolton crown court for conspiracy to produce and supply Class C drugs. Spiby Jr was given nine years, Lee Drury, 45, was jailed for nine years, nine months and Callum Dorrian, 35, for 12.

BY **CHARLIE FENTON**

Row over whale bones arch

AN iconic whale bones arch overlooking a fishing port for more than a century is at the centre of a row over what should replace it.

The 12ft high bones at the former whaling port of Whitby, North Yorkshire, are rapidly decaying and in urgent need of replacement.

Council chiefs are considering whether to replace them with bones from a live whale caught by native Inuits in Alaska or with those from a dead whale. They are also looking into trying to source replica bones.

But wildlife conservationists have condemned officials for considering real bones from either a dead or live whale. Alexandra Smith, manager of Whitby Wildlife Sanctuary, said: "While we recognise the historical significance of the arch, we would not support the use of real whale bones in its replacement.

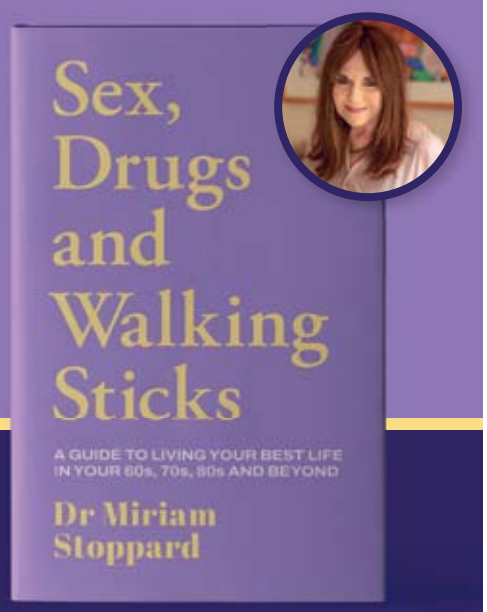
"Whales are a protected species, their use risks normalising the idea that wildlife body parts are appropriate for public display."

Cllr Mark Crane, North Yorkshire Council's executive member for harbours, said: "All options are being considered."

Iconic arch in Whitby is decaying

Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard



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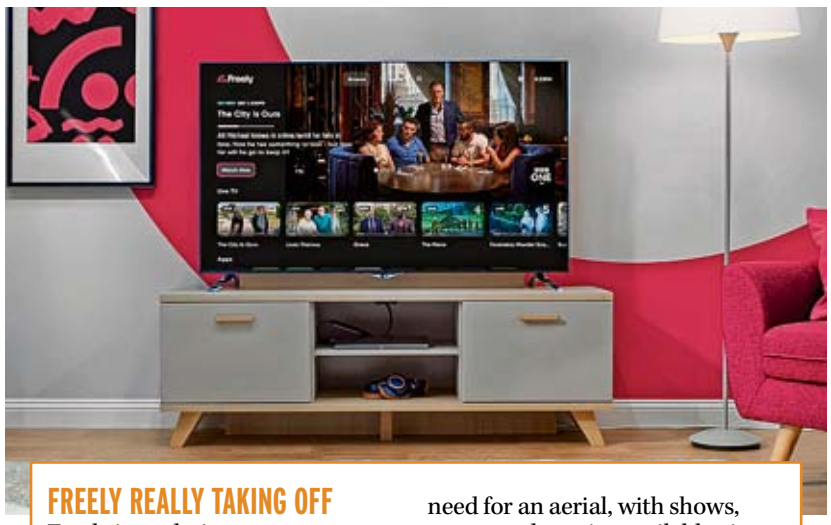
TECH SHAPE OF THE FUTURE

Edited by **DAVE SNELLING**



FREELY REALLY TAKING OFF

Freely is a relative newcomer to UK homes, but it appears to be proving hugely popular. The free TV streaming platform has just announced that it has surpassed one million weekly users.

Those who have made the jump get access to live and on-demand content without the need for an aerial, with shows, sports and movies available via a wifi connection.

More than 50 channels are now available, with more launching later this year.

Freely is now built into many new smart TVs, including models made by Panasonic, Hisense and Toshiba.

JAZZY APPLE

Bling up your Apple Watch with this flash new strap from Nomad. The Stratos accessory is not only made from super-tough titanium to help it survive life on your wrist, it also gives off an icy blue glow, so you can read it in the night, although it's just a gentle light. Available in black or silver, it costs £159.

SLEEPING DUTY

Dyson hopes its latest gadget will help you snooze more soundly. It's called the HushJet Purifier Compact, and it's been created to clean the air in rooms without making a racket.

In fact, Dyson is promising whole-room purification while keeping things whisper-quiet.

By capturing airborne allergens like pollen, dust and pet dander, this diddy device helps reduce symptoms that could interfere with sleep, such as sniffles, dry throats and itchy eyes. There's even a smart auto mode that monitors air quality in real time and automatically adjusts performance. It's out now and costs £349.

TECH & MOTORING

32 Tech
34 Motoring
37 TV Guide
42 Your Letters
44 Horoscopes
45 City
PLUS Puzzles

STAR TREKKING *Manage systems and crew and battle the unknown*

BEAM US UP, SCOTTY!

Sci-fi lovers will soon be able to explore the universe and meet all kinds of weird and hostile aliens in a new Star Trek game.

Star Trek: Voyager – Across the Unknown blends exploration with intergalactic combat and spaceship simulation on the PS5, Nintendo Switch 2 and Xbox Series X. And it arrives just as the new telly series Starfleet Academy wows fans on Paramount+.

Across the Unknown is set in the Delta Quadrant, an area of the galaxy a long way away from Earth, packed with violent species, including the Borg.

You captain Voyager, the craft that featured in a 90s spin-off Star Trek show of the same name for seven series.

Characters like Captain Janeway, Seven of Nine and Nelix return as you're tasked with not only keeping the baddies at bay but maintaining the ship in a Sims-management style of gameplay as well as exploring 12 regions of the quadrant.

The endgame, like in the show, is to get the ship and her crew home to Earth.

A spokesman for developer Daedalic Entertainment said: "Players take command of the USS Voyager as it traverses 12 vast sectors of the Delta Quadrant. They'll manage systems and crew, engage in diplomacy, navigate difficult moral decisions, and face the unknown.

"Familiar faces return, but their fates may differ– reshaped by the captain on the bridge."

The game is released on February 18.

Right tools for online projects

Anyone wanting to become the next viral sensation will need some gear to get their videos posted online. Here is some top tech to help get the lights, camera and action started

IPHONE FOR QUICK MOVIE MAKING

All recent smartphones have decent front and rear cameras that are perfect for shooting videos for social media. Those who are wanting to achieve a more polished look might want to check out the latest iPhone 17 Pro Max, £1,099, Apple, which now features three 48MP lenses.

This set-up boosts the zoom, makes colours pop even more and improves shooting at night.

Apple's clever Cinematic Mode also adds some more Hollywood style to those home videos too.

MACBOOK AIR FOR EDITING

Apple's latest MacBook Air is perfect for editing your movie masterpiece on the move. It's now powered by the ludicrously quick M4 processor and offers over 15 hours of battery life. The standard model gets a 13in Retina screen. Those wanting more space can also opt for a 15in display. Prices start from £999, Currys.

LIGHTS

If you are recording videos, make sure your face is well-lit. There are loads of ring lights on the market, with many now featuring MagSafe, which means they instantly snap to iPhones via built-in magnets. The ShiftCam SnapLight, £39.99, Amazon, is a top choice, but there are plenty of cheaper models to choose from.

DJI CAMERA FOR SHOOTING

Want to start vlogging? The Dji Osmo Pocket 3 is tough to beat with this clever camera featuring a rotating screen for shooting perfect landscape or portrait content.

It can also film in stunning 4K, has smart autofocus so footage stays sharp, and image stabilisation stops juddering.

Over two hours of battery life and rapid charging should ensure you never miss a moment.
Expect to pay £389, dji.com.

DJI MIC 3 FOR SOUND

Looking good is important, but it's vital to sound great as well. The Dji Mic 3, £145, Argos, makes sure viewers can hear everything you say, thanks to noise cancellation and wind interference reduction.

It's super simple to set up, too, with a receiver plugging into phones, while the mic records your voice wirelessly. It can even clip neatly on to your clothes or other objects via magnets.

CAPCUT LETS YOU EDIT FOR FREE

Some quick editing will make your content look way more professional. One of the best ways to add some magic to those movies is CapCut. It's free to download and offers an array of tools, including special effects, music and transitions. Download it at the Apple app store. Those wanting even more features can switch to the Pro version for $9.99 per month.

GO HANDS-FREE

Everyone loves an unboxing, and if you fancy posting the opening of a parcel on social media, then a POV strap is a must. These accessories hook around the back of your neck and allow you to film footage hands-free. Try the K&F Concept Neck Phone Holder from Amazon, £29.49.

INNOVATIVE *Apple Creative Studio*

Tap into creativity

Software developer gives us another bite of the Apple with its new Creative Studio, plus there are useful pay-monthly packages to suit every budget

Apple has announced a blockbuster software launch that's perfect for budding TikTok, YouTube and music stars. It's called Creative Studio and offers MacBook and iPad owners full access to a whole suite of premium applications at a more affordable price. This service includes Final Cut Pro for professional video editing along with Logic Pro which can create polished music tracks without needing a recording studio.

Another bonus is access to Pixelmator Pro – an image editing tool that offers an alternative to Adobe's Photoshop.

Installing all of this software would usually cost hundreds of pounds, but Apple's new subscription platform brings that down to just £12.99 per month.

MAIN EVENT

There's even better news for university students: this software is available for just £2.99 per month.

By offering Creative Studio on a pay-per-month basis, Apple aims to make it more accessible for everyone.

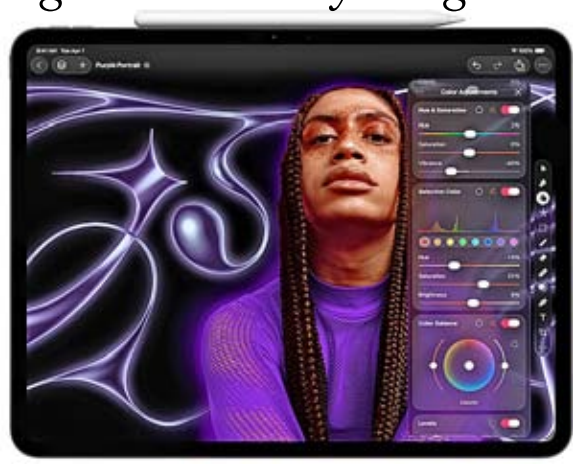
"Apple Creator Studio is great value and enables creators of all types to pursue their craft and grow their skills by providing easy access to the most powerful and intuitive tools for video editing, music making, creative imaging, and visual productivity. Plus, it's all levelled up with advanced intelligent tools to augment and accelerate workflows," said Eddy Cue, Apple's senior vice president of internet software and services.

There are also other extras as part of Creative Studio with Apple adding MainStage, which turns the Mac into an instrument, voice processor, or guitar rig.

There's also something called Motion. This is a powerful graphics tool for creating cinematic 2D and 3D effects with intelligent features like Magnetic Mask, which effortlessly isolates and tracks people and objects without needing a Hollywood-style green screen.

Apple Creator Studio is available on the App Store now, with Apple offering a one-month free trial for everyone.

Those buying a MacBook or iPad will also be offered three months of access without paying.



GENIUS *Pixelmator Pro image editing*

SPEEDY *Vodafone router, above Virgin's*

Best way to download vids faster

If you stream endless 4K YouTube videos or want to upload your own creations to social media, then you might be best switching your broadband to Virgin Media or Vodafone.

These two popular UK internet providers have just come top of the charts in the latest speed study from SpeedGo.

According to extensive tests, Virgin Media has the fastest average download speeds across the UK (256 Mbps) while Vodafone is the quickest for uploads (83 Mbps).

As a guide, 200 Mbps will let you download a HD movie in about two minutes.

INTERVIEW

We talk to **THE TECH CHAP**

SUCCESS *Tom's a YouTube hit*

Fancy becoming the next YouTube sensation? With over 1.6 million followers, Tom The Tech Chap is one of the UK's biggest and brightest content creators. We sat down with him to find out how you can follow in his footsteps.

How did it all begin for you?
I started The Tech Chap channel in 2015, so I've been doing this job for 11 years. I wanted to become a technology journalist, so I began posting YouTube videos, and I've never looked back.

You make it look easy, but how long does each video take?
A 10-minute video takes me two to three days to put together. That's testing, writing the script, shooting content and editing. You want to enjoy the creative process, so it's important not to rush it.

What's the best part of working as a content creator?

GUINEA PIG *Reviewing gadgets*

It's having unlimited creativity. You can make anything you want. Your job is to produce videos and entertain people, and that's a lot of fun.

I get to test all the latest tech and talk about it. What could be better?

Should anyone quit their job and try to become an influencer?
That's a bad idea. Do it as a hobby first. If it becomes a business, that's great, but do it for the enjoyment, as only a very small number of people get to do this as their full-time job.

What should you do if you want to give content creating a go?
Just start posting content on TikTok, Instagram and YouTube shorts. My best advice is simply to make sure each new video is better than your last.

What's the best gadget for creating content?
An iPhone and Bluetooth mic. You don't need a fancy camera; slicker production doesn't mean more views these days. It's about being relatable, funny, genuine and authentic. An iPhone makes it simple to get creative, and that's what it's all about.

What's your top tip for budding content creators out there?
Don't try and replicate what someone else is doing. Do your own thing, enjoy it, be persistent and see where it takes you.

ADVICE *'Tech Chap' Tom*

MOTORING TESTED TRUSTED DRIVEN

K4 gunning 4 Vauxhall Astra

The Kia K4 has just got a lot more practical with the arrival of a new Sportswagon estate variant.

Its latest combustion-powered model replaces the old Cee'd hatchback as the Korean firm's rival to the likes of the Volkswagen Golf and Vauxhall Astra.

Under the bonnet there will be a choice of petrol and mild-hybrid powertrains. The entry-level 1.0-litre three-cylinder turbocharged petrol develops 113bhp and is paired with a six-speed manual gearbox, while the punchier 1.6-litre turbocharged, four-cylinder unit produces 177bhp and comes as standard with a seven-speed dual clutch automatic transmission.

The 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol is available with mild-hybrid tech, a 48-volt battery and the same 113bhp. No word yet on prices and specifications for the UK yet but expect to see it later this year.

BYD IN THE SWIM WITH SEALION 5

BYD has announced its Sealion 5 DM-i SUV will be priced at £29,995.

Built to rival the Hyundai Tucson and Kia Sportage, the Sealion 5 comes equipped with BYD's DM-i plug-in hybrid powertrain, with a 1.5-litre turbocharged petrol engine paired with an electric motor and 12.96kWh battery pack found on the entry-level car.

This produces 209bhp and can take the car to 60mph in 7.5 seconds, while BYD claims an electric range of up to 38 miles. Meanwhile, top-spec cars gain a larger 18.3kWh unit, boosting its claimed electric range up to 53.4 miles. The flagship Design model comes in at £32,995 and adds a powered tailgate, front parking sensors, a 360-degree camera, heated front seats and wireless smartphone charging.

Order books are open now, with deliveries expected to commence on February 7.

LONDON LOOK HAS SATIN AND PACE

Range Rover has revealed "London-themed" Evoque and Velar SUVs.

The Evoque Hoxton features special badging on door sills and in puddle lights, while the exterior gets 20in Satin Gold wheels. Inside, you'll find leather upholstery as well as black brushed aluminium on the centre console with a "Hoxton Edition" signature on the trim.

The Velar Belgravia has 20in black wheels with a Satin Black tinted lacquer, "Belgravia Edition" badging on sills and puddle light motifs.

Inside, the interior has a similar look to the Evoque.

Range Rover will also launch a Velar "Belgravia Edition Satin" with a clear satin film over the bodywork, 22in grey wheels as well as a "1 of 400" plaque.

Order the Evoque now for £47,755, while the Velar comes in at £60,395.

Go wild for the Brabus Rocket

The Mercedes-AMG G63 has been given a bold new look with the Brabus 900 Rocket Edition.

Brabus specialises in tuning Mercedes models to their full potential, and the 900 Rocket Edition is its latest creation. The Rocket Edition has a 4.5-litre Biturbo V8 petrol engine which can take the car to 60mph in 3.5 seconds, with a top speed of 149mph.

The car gains a wild exterior, with an illuminated carbon-fibre front grille, carbon-fibre rear spoiler and a stainless steel exhaust system. It is also has 24-inch Brabus Monoblock II EVO wheels.

Inside, exposed-structure carbon is used on the dashboard, centre console and door cards. The seats, door inserts and floor get quilted leather.

Just 30 of the 900 Rocket Edition will be made and prices and UK availablity are not yet known.

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SMOOTH OPERATOR

Keeping ahead of the increasingly crowded luxury SUV game, the latest, head-turning X3 offers up a smooth, refined ride with loads of space inside

When the first BMW X3 was launched in 2003, it marked a turning point for high-riding cars. Introduced as a Sports Activity Vehicle, it was a road-focused model with some of the look and feel of an off-roader. In reality, it was never going to venture far off the beaten track.

While the X3 might have been a trendsetter in the early 2000s, it's since been joined by all manner of rivals. Can this latest car deliver?

WHAT'S NEW?

Its rivals are numerous: the shapely Volvo XC60, popular Audi Q5 and even the Genesis GV70 or BYD Seal U. What BMW has done to keep the X3 up front is lean into what it knows best: dynamics. It's wider, longer and lower to the ground than its predecessor.

WHAT'S UNDER THE BONNET?

A range of smooth-shifting engines, including petrol and diesel. There's a plug-in hybrid with a battery-only range of up to 54 miles, while later on this year the electric iX3 will arrive. With a range of up to 500 miles, it has one of the longest electric-only ranges of any EV.

The one we're testing is the range-topping M50, with a 3.0-litre turbocharged straight-six sending 376bhp to the wheels. With a zero to 60mph time of 4.4 seconds, it's brisk, yet some mild-hybrid tech helps it to bring a claimed fuel consumption of 30.5mpg combined.

FACTS

BMW X3 M50

Price as tested: £79,939
Engine: 3.0-litre turbocharged petrol
Power: 376bhp
Torque: 580Nm
0-60mph: 4.4 seconds
Top speed: 155mph
MPG: 30.5mpg
CO2 emissions: 175-189g/km

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO DRIVE?

Make no mistake, the X3 in M50 specification doesn't hang about. It surges forward with smooth performance and while the piped-in artificial engine noise can be overbearing, you can switch it off via the main screen. Through the corners, the X3 remains flat and composed with excellent levels of grip.

On the motorway it feels truly at home. Wind and road noise are kept to a minimum, and this helps this high-riding BMW to feel quite effortless when you're doing those big-distance trips. As for fuel economy, we saw a mixed bag – you could get close to 35mpg on longer trips, but it would fall off a cliff during around-town driving.

HOW DOES IT LOOK?

BMW has caused some controversy styling-wise in its latest cars and that's still the case here. While it isn't as outlandish as something like an iX or flagship XM, it's still a car that'll get people talking.

Those huge kidney grilles get an illuminated surround too, so even at night there's no way of disguising what type of car you're driving.

WHAT'S IT LIKE INSIDE?

Sadly, it's a bit of a mixed bag inside the cabin. While the general fit-and-finish is good, it's let down by some poor plastics, particularly on the sides. There's also a large plastic section that surrounds the wireless charging pad and though it's illuminated, it just doesn't feel as high-quality as you'd expect. That said, storage is great with large door bins and a well-sized central cubby helping to keep things tidy.

There's loads of room for those sitting in the rear too, with headroom more than plentiful enough even for taller passengers. With 570 litres the boot is very usable in terms of size, bringing more room than the Volvo XC60, but falling short of the Mercedes GLC.

WHAT'S THE SPEC LIKE?

Prices start from £53,305 for a standard petrol-engine car in xLine trim. There's plenty of equipment fitted as standard, such as an automatic tailgate, cruise control and BMW's widescreen system included from the off.

The main infotainment system is one of the most intuitive on the market today, and in the X3 you also get a rotary controller which can make operating certain functions easier. Prices for the M50 rise to £73,715 and other additions include sport seats for a racier drive.

VERDICT

The BMW X3 is a very accomplished mid-size SUV. In M50 trim it offers an exciting driving experience with the smooth, refined character you'd expect from a premium model. But unless you really need the added performance, the standard petrol and diesel models are a better fit. Patchy interior quality aside, the X3 feels just as rounded as before and as a result that puts it towards the top of its class.

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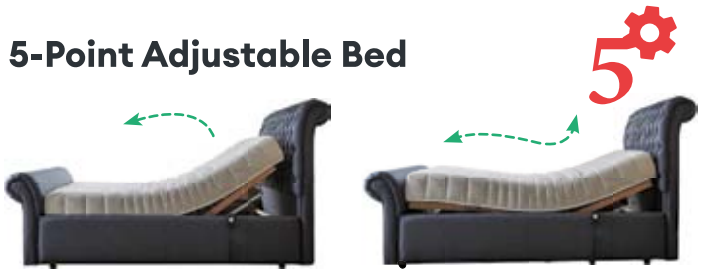

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THE APPRENTICE BBC1, 9PM

DRAGONS' DEN, BBC1, 8PM

THERE'S going to be a slightly different feel to this 23rd Dragons' Den series (yes, it really is series 23 – how time flies, eh?). Sara Davies has left the show, for now at least, to focus on other stuff, so in her vacant seat there'll be a different guest week. And, yes, I appreciate I've not made that sound terribly exciting but in that regard I really can't compete with narrator Evan Davis.

"Alongside four seasoned Dragons stands a revolving door of fierce investors!" is how he puts it, in something fairly close to grammatical English. First up, we have "cosmetic powerhouse" Jenna Meek.

BEN FOGLE: NEW LIVES IN THE WILD, 5, 9PM

THIS week Ben is heading up a mountain in Montana, USA. He'll be hanging out with Brandon and Alisa Bellrose, who live up there, way off grid, with their four kids.

He starts his journey, however, in a place rather dauntingly named Anaconda, before making his way to a desolate Wild West ghost town called Gunslinger Gulch, which is also said to be the scene of paranormal goings-on.

"I love it!" insists Ben, who I take it will be moving there as soon as he can sell his £2.2million home near Henley-on-Thames.

WORK IT OUT *Lord Sugar and the new batch of hopefuls*

ALL FIRED UP FOR YOUR BIG SHOP

WE'VE got 20 people competing in this year's Apprentice. Not for long, obviously, but that's the number we're starting with. Twenty. That's an awful lot, isn't it? Having said that, this awful lot sound as if they come with strong credentials. They're not just a bunch of puffed-up ninnies with shiny suits, super-power dresses and zero self-awareness, in case for some strange reason you've assumed that's what they'd be.

No, according to the man who does the voiceover, these are "Britain's entrepreneurial elite". Those are his words. Or, if not his, then the words someone has written for him, which he's been happy to read out. It doesn't even sound as though he's stifling a giggle or that this is his 98th take.

So, OK, how exactly have these candidates attained their elite status? What qualities brought them to Lord Sugar's attention? Essentially what I'm asking is: What in the name of heck do these people actually do?

In several cases, I really couldn't say, even after hearing their job descriptions. For example we have a tech project manager, a global account manager, an AI project consultant and a student wellbeing adviser.

I'm struggling to visualise any of those people at work, the way I would a train driver, say, or a butcher or a traffic Nazi. I'm guessing the job of a student wellbeing adviser is to sit a student down and, with empathy and kindness, advise them to blinking well pull themselves together. But who knows, maybe I've even got that wrong.

Two are "specialists" – one a PR specialist, the other a pharmaceutical sales specialist. I'm not sure how being a "specialist" in either of those fields differs from just, well, doing the job. Or are there people who work in PR or sell pharmaceuticals who say: "Yeah, but I don't really specialise in this."

Anyway, we start with the ever popular shopping-list task. Lord Sugar gives each team a list of nine very specific items to hunt down, and to buy as cheaply as they can. The catch is, these items are all in Hong Kong. But that's OK, because guess where he's sending them? So now it should be a doddle, right..?

BEST DOC
LONG LOST FAMILY ITV1, 9PM

Davina McCall meets Mandy, who discovered her parents had a baby girl before they were married, who was placed for adoption. Mandy is desperate to find her.

BEST TRAVEL
LORRAINE KELLY'S NORWEGIAN ODYSSEY C4, 8PM

Cod is key to Norway's culture and economy. And in the nutrient-rich waters off the Lofoten Islands, Lorraine heads out on a 100-year-old boat to catch her own.

BEST SPORT
DARTS: THE WORLD MASTERS LIVE ITV4, 7PM

Almost four weeks on from his second World Championship success, Luke Littler begins his quest to win a major tournament still missing from his CV – the World Masters.

BEST FILM
RUSH BBC3, 11.35PM

Buckle up for this exhilarating movie based on the 1976 F1 season's intense rivalry between James Hunt and Niki Lauda, played by Chris Hemsworth and Daniel Bruhl.

DX1ST

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain (R)
11.15 Homes Under the Hammer Properties are appraised in Cornwall, Tyne and Wear and the West Midlands.
12.15pm Bargain Hunt (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes Last in series.
2.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence The chef attempts to understand Provence's passion for olives. (R)
3.00 Escape to the Country (R)
3.45 The Travelling Auctioneers James Broad and Lauren Wood help Andy clear out his mum's home five years after she lost her battle with cancer. (R)
4.30 Antiques Road Trip Ishy Khan and Hettie Jago search for treasures in Yorkshire.
5.15 Pointless Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong. (R)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather
6.55 Party Political Broadcast By Reform UK. (R)

BBC Two

6.15am Homes Under the Hammer Property renovations in Nottinghamshire, south London and Lancashire. (R)
7.15 Escape to the Country (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Monty Don's Rhineland Gardens (R)
9.00 BBC News The headlines.
12.15pm Politics Live The latest stories from Westminster.
1.00 Impossible Quiz show. (R)
1.45 Brainbox Challenge (R)
2.15 The Boss Quiz show. (R)
3.00 The Vintage French Farmhouse Antiques dealers Ian Humphries, Harry Khwaja and Jo Roberts head to L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue. (R)
3.45 Who Do You Think You Are? USA With Laverne Cox. (R)
4.15 Scotland from the Sky (R)
5.15 Flog It! In Derbyshire. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games With Tasha Ghouri, Jon Kay, Alexandra Mardell and Griff Rhys Jones.
6.30 Clive Myrie's African Adventure Clive arrives in Ghana, and his first stop is the beachside capital of Accra.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion.
12.30pm Loose Women Debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson is in Coventry, where dealer Jan Keyne splashes out to buy a family collection of top-end watches.
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz show, hosted by Sara Davies.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show as Yahya tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.
5.00 The Chase Murray, Shen, Gail and Jack take part.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.25 Party Political Broadcast By Reform UK.
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather

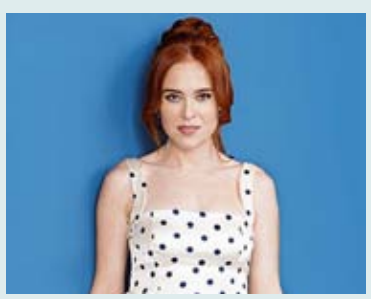
Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S A Mini Cooper. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
2.10 Countdown Tom Read Wilson is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun Sue and Tony search Almeria. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun The pressure is on as a Lancaster couple push to open their new show bar in Spain.
5.00 Chateau DIY: Win the Dream The remaining pairs transform their bedrooms, but only the team with the strongest creativity, and finish will impress enough to keep their place in the competition.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Pam and Andrew seek a holiday home that they can eventually retire to by the Garonne river in France. Jean Johansson shows the pair what their £250,000 budget can buy.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Debate.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries A murder mystery night at a hotel with a spooky history takes a turn when a dead body turns up. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Novice caravan salesman Ant starts a new life on the Costa del Sol, Kiki battles the blues, Kaye opens a pet superstore, and Beckii and Simon face a new challenge.
5.00 5 News at 5 The headlines.
6.00 The Motorway Just outside Manchester, patrollers Victoria and Darren fight their way through heavy traffic to reach a high-speed crash on the M62, finding a pile-up involving 15 people and nine wrecked cars. The M62 is blocked and they have to deal with more than a thousand cars trapped behind the crash. (R); 5 News Update

7pm, THE ONE SHOW: Alex Jones and Roman Kemp



10.05pm, THE APPRENTICE: UNFINISHED...: Angela Scanlon

8pm, EMMERDALE: Beth Cordingly

6pm, A PLACE IN THE SUN: Jean Johansson

9pm, BEN FOGLE: NEW LIVES IN THE WILD: Ben Fogle (centre)

7

7.00 The One Show Live magazine show featuring topical stories and celebrity chat. Hosted by Roman Kemp and Alex Jones.
7.30 EastEnders Emotions run high in court Avani takes the stand. Meanwhile, burglars target the Minute Mart.

7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip Nina Hossain and Lucrezia Millarini embark on a shopping bonanza between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Advice comes from Tim Medhurst and Steven Moore. (R)

7.30 Beckham v Beckham: The Price of Fame? – Tonight Following Brooklyn Beckham's announcement on social media regarding his family, Nina Nannar examines the impact of growing up in the spotlight.

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

7.00 Smart Meters: Are They Really Worth It? New gas and electricity meters promise to save customers time, money and energy, but cameras reveal not all is what it seems when it comes to smart meters. (R); 5 News Update

8

8.00 NEW **Dragons' Den** Two Leeds-based business partners showcase their plant-based drink powered by an east African super-crop and a former pharmacist steps into the ring with her women-only self-defence venture.

8.00 Your Home Made Perfect Architects Will Foster and Lizzie Fraher compete using virtual reality to win the opportunity to remodel a four-bedroom house near Stockport. Presented by Angela Scanlon. (R)

8.00 Emmerdale Ruby is shocked, Dawn makes a suggestion and Marlon is stunned.
8.30 Coronation Street The husband of Roy's penpal turns up in the cafe, while Bernie meets the same man at the Chariot Square Hotel.

8.00 Lorraine Kelly's Norwegian Odyssey In Norway, the presenter heads to sea on a 100-year-old fishing boat on a mission to catch cod and later fulfils a life-long dream of seeing the Northern Lights. Last in series.

8.00 Spain with Michael Portillo Michael explores Valencia, beginning in the Old Town. There he soaks up the sights of two historic squares adjacent to the Cathedral, before climbing the bell tower. He then heads to El Cabanyal.

9

9.00 NEW **The Apprentice** The hunt is on for Lord Sugar's next business partner. A new batch of hopefuls jet off to Hong Kong on a mission to secure items at knock-down prices under the watchful eye of aides Karren Brady and Tim Campbell.

9.00 Cold Case Investigators: Solving Britain's Sex Crimes Part two of two. Modern DNA testing helps detectives find a rapist who posed as a cab driver and has gone unpunished for nearly 30 years. (R)

9.00 Long Lost Family Jane thought she was an only child, but her mum revealed when she turned 18 that she had a baby boy before her daughter, who was put up for adoption. Now Jane wants to find her long lost brother. Last in series.

9.00 Patience Frankie and Patience are held at gunpoint by an escaped prisoner, who wants Patience to help prove her innocence. As police prepare to storm the building, a figure from Frankie's past resurfaces. Last in series.

9.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild The presenter travels to Montana, USA to vist the Bellrose family. Ben joins the off-grid clan in their cramped RV as they work toward launching a new business for winter sports enthusiasts.

10

10.05 BBC News at Ten
10.35 Regional News; Weather
10.45 Question Time Fiona Bruce chairs the topical debate, inviting a panel of politicians and other guests in King's Lynn, Norfolk, to answer questions from an audience on subjects that have made the headlines over the past week.

10.00 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs Paul Murton explores the nation's lochs. (R)
10.05 NEW **The Apprentice: Unfinished Business** Angela Scanlon chats to the show's freshly rejected candidate.
10.35 Newsnight; Weather;

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.45 Killer in the House: The Murders of Lesley Howell and Trevor Buchanan Documentary examining the case of one of the UK's most notorious double murders. (R)

10.00 24 Hours in A&E The stories of Queen's patients who have faced some of the biggest challenges of their lives. As the clinical team tends to a 94-year-old who has collapsed, his daughter talks about why he's known as Mr Sunshine. (R)

10.00 A Killer Makes a Call Investigating the call made by Robert Trigg, who reported that he had woken up to find his partner, Susan Nicholson, in a strange position, believing that she may have suffocated. The coroner agreed that she had suffocated and recorded a verdict of accidental death. However, Susan's family discovered that this wasn't the first time that Trigg had woken up to find his partner dead. (R)

11

11.45 Newscast A panel of BBC journalists hosts a round-up from Westminster, delivering a mix of serious analysis and light-hearted gossip about the biggest stories in politics.

11.10 Mystery Road: Origin Jay's rough justice gets an unexpected response. One disappearance is resolved, but the other's outcome proves aggravating. Drama, starring Mark Coles Smith, Tuuli Narkle and Luke Carroll.

11.40 Beckham v Beckham: The Price of Fame? – Tonight Following Brooklyn Beckham's announcement on social media regarding his family, Nina Nannar examines the impact of growing up in the spotlight. (R)

11.05 24 Hours in Police Custody: Burying Horror The investigation into one of the country's worst serial paedophiles, which took officers to ever darker places with the discovery of bones in the offender's garden. (R)

11.05 My Lover, My Killer How Michaela Hall was brought into the orbit of Lee Kendall. (R)

12 MIDNIGHT

12.15am The Weakest Link. Lloyd Griffith, Rav Wilding, Dylan Llewellyn, Lorna Watson, Shereen Cutkelvin, Colin Jackson, Harriet Thorpe and Kiri Pritchard-McLean compete to be the strongest link. (R) **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. A look ahead to the latest forecast. **1.05-6.00am** BBC News

12.05am Sign Zone: Gladiators (R) **1.05** Sign Zone: Robson Green's Weekend Escapes. The actor is joined by football pundit Chris Kamara. (R) **1.35** Sign Zone: Confessions of a Killer (R) **2.35** Sign Zone: Waiting for the Out (R) **3.20-6.30am** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

12.05am Shop on TV **3.00** Jimmy & Shivi's Farmhouse Breakfast. Jimmy Doherty and Shivi Ramoutar are joined in the kitchen by singer Gareth Gates for a luxurious croissant Benedict breakfast, as well as sausage and mash. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

12.15am In the Footsteps of Killers. The Templeton Woods Murders. (R) **1.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A failing New York restaurant. (R) **2.00** Four Kings: double bill (R) **3.40** The Great Pottery Throw Down (R) **4.50** Couples Come Dine with Me (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R)

12.00m't Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys (R) **3.50** Susan Calman's Grand Week by the Sea (R) **4.35** Amazing Railway Adventures with Nick Knowles (R) **5.25-5.35** Entertainment News on 5

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Georgia and Tommy: Baby Steps **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.15** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. Reality series.

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase

7.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County The reunion continues with Jenn questioning her friendship with Tamra.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars Reality show.

10.05 Piglets Comedy, with Sarah Parish.

10.35 Family Guy Double bill of animation.

11.35 American Dad! Double bill.

12.35am Bob's Burgers **1.35** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.30** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** Beat the Chasers **4.00** Time Is Money **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Stephen Mulhern hosts as a contestant tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order, taking on the infamous Banker for the chance to win a life-changing cash prize.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Adil Ray hosts the game show in which three pairs of contestants use their skills to find words from the fewest letters possible.

9.00 Ant & Dec's Limitless Win The duo host the quiz that gives contestants a chance to win the biggest cash prize in British TV history with a limitless jackpot by climbing an endless money ladder.

10.00 Tipping Point Triple bill. Arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning the £10,000 jackpot.

12.50am Tenable **1.45** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up News update.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 Deadly 60 The paralysis tick, lace monitor lizard and redback spider.

8.00 Top Gear A road trip across Australia's Northern Territory.

9.00 FILM Louis Theroux: My Scientology Movie (2015, 15) The reporter investigates the controversial religion. ★★★★

10.35 Stacey Dooley: Two Daughters Stacey Dooley tells the story of the murders of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman.

11.35 FILM Rush (2013, 15) Formula 1 drivers James Hunt and Niki Lauda develop a fierce rivalry over the course of the 1976 championship. Fact-based drama, starring Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Bruhl and Alexandra Maria Lara. ★★★★

1.30am Things You Should Have Done: triple bill **2.55-3.55am** Top Gear

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Travelling from London's Docklands to the Barbican.

7.30 Wainwright Walks Julia Bradbury climbs the famous crag Pillar Rock. Last in series.

8.00 FILM The Magnificent Seven (1960, PG) An enigmatic loner rounds up a band of gunslingers to help oppressed Mexican villagers fend off bandits. Western, with Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Charles Bronson. ★★★★

10.05 Parkinson with Yul Brynner Michael Parkinson in conversation with the stage and screen star.

11.10 FILM Defiance (2008, 15) Second World War drama, starring Daniel Craig and Jamie Bell. ★★★

1.15am Sleuths, Spies & Sorcerers: Andrew Marr's Paperback Heroes **2.15** Great British Railway Journeys **2.45-3.15am** Wainwright Walks

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Stephen and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of debate and news making interviews. Top guests tackle the issues that matter, with a sharp take on every story.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Discussion and debate.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.35** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **9.30** Guy Martin: World's Fastest Tractor **11.00** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's Road to Mexico The chef explores Guadalajara.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? Comedy panel show, hosted by Rob Brydon.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games Double bill. Quiz testing the general knowledge of four celebrities.

9.00 QI XL Extended edition. With Jo Brand, John Sessions and Dara O Briain.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Steph McGovern hosts, with Ash Sarkar and Josh Widdicombe.

11.00 Taskmaster Greg Davies sets tasks.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Not Going Out **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.30** The Bill **8.30** Doctors **9.40** Classic Holby City **10.45** Classic Casualty **11.50** The Bill **12.55pm** Classic EastEnders **2.10** All Creatures Great and Small **3.10** Howards' Way **4.20** Bergerac **5.20** The Thin Blue Line

6.00 To the Manor Born Richard's business empire begins to crumble.

6.40 Last of the Summer Wine Double bill.

8.00 Kingdom A couple want to sue for damages when their daughter is refused a place at Cambridge. Stephen Fry stars.

9.00 Harry Wild A soap opera director has his throat cut in the middle of a scene.

10.00 New Tricks Sasha is forced to work with her ex-husband Ned Hancock when their teams investigate the mysterious deaths of a film critic and an artist.

11.20 Waking the Dead Drama.

12.40am Sister Boniface Mysteries **1.40** The Thin Blue Line. Police comedy series. **2.15** To the Manor Born **2.50** Harry Wild **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Modern Family **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. Gina performs a psychological test on Holt, while Santiago and Diaz compete for a day off.

6.00 The Simpsons Four episodes.

8.00 First Dates Best friends Emma and Dani hope that going on a double date will double their chances of leaving with the one for them and Mark is hoping Aire could be his perfect salsa partner.

9.00 Gogglebox Double bill.

11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Welsh pair Jonny and Sarah plan to have sex with other couples.

12.10am Naked Attraction **1.15** First Dates **2.20** Gogglebox **4.10** The Goldbergs **4.55-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Strangers on a Plane **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend pick up a 1972 Renault Alpine A110 belonging to a former restaurateur.

7.55 The Dog House 'Escape artist' Lily the beagle seeks a new home.

9.00 Britain's Favourite Railway Stations with Si King Si explores Glasgow Central's hidden tunnels, wartime shelters and forgotten platform. Last in series.

10.00 New Zealand by Train Part one of a two-part series exploring three of the country's major scenic rail journeys.

11.05 24 Hours in A&E A man comes in having severed three of his fingers.

12.10am 24 Hours in A&E **1.15** Britain's Favourite Railway Stations with Si King **2.20** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.50am** Food Unwrapped. With Kate Quilton.

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30-6.55** BBC Wales Today; Weather. The latest headlines. **10.35-10.45pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather

WALES As BBC2 except: 7.00pm Scrum V: The Warm Up. Rugby union show, featuring United Rugby Championship discussion. **7.30-8.00pm** The Hairy Bikers' Bakeation

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather. The headlines so far. **6.00-6.25** ITV News Meridian; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News Central; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central; Weather. The day's headlines.

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News Wales at Six; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News Anglia; Weather. The latest headlines. **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo **12.30** Heno **1.00** Rhys Patchell: Japan a'r Gic Olaf **1.30** Y Deis **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Taith Bywyd **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Gwlad y Basg: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **6.25** Y Cyfweliad. The group members interview Elin Fflur. Last in series. **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Rownd a Rownd **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Y Byd yn ei Le. The latest from the political world. **9.45** Cynefin. Heledd Cynwal, Iestyn Jones and Sion Tomos Owen visit the Vale of Clwyd. **10.45** Stuart Burrows: Brenin y Tenoriaid **11.30pm-12.05am** Cysgu O Gwmpas

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news. **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast
8.30 LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Bahrain Championship. Day one of the tournament at Royal Golf Club in Al Mazrowiah, where England's Laurie Canter was victorious last year.
1.30pm Lunchtime Live. The headlines.
2.00 LIVE **WPL** Royal Challengers Bengaluru v Up Warriorz. Coverage of the women's T20 match at Baroda Cricket Association Stadium in Vadodara.
5.30 LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The Farmers Insurance Open. Coverage of day one of the tournament at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego.
12.00m't-6.00am Sky Sports News. Headlines.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am WPL **7.00** Best of ICC WT20
7.15 LIVE **ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** South Africa V Sri Lanka. Coverage of the Super Six match from Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo.
3.00pm LIVE **WPL** Royal Challengers Bengaluru v Up Warriorz. Coverage of the women's T20 match at Baroda Cricket Association Stadium.
5.30 Best of ICC WT20 **6.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – The Experts' View **7.00** The Story of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final 2024 **8.00** Best of ICC WT20 **8.15** Best of ICC WT20 **8.30** Best of England v South Africa **8.45** Best of ICC WT20 **9.00** WPL **10.00** WPL **11.00** WPL **3.30am** Best of England v South Africa **3.45** Best of ICC WT20 **4.00-6.00am** WPL

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am Championship Retro **8.00** Best Moments From The Championship Play-Off Final (1993-2019) **8.30** Best Moments From The League 1 & 2 Play-Off Final (1993-2019) **9.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** EFL Cup Retro **11.00** There's Only One Sauzee **11.30** Dundee United – Champions 83
12.00noon EFL Highlights **1.00** WSL **1.30** EFL Highlights **3.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **4.30** WSL **5.00** EFL Highlights **6.30** Bundesliga Weekly **7.00** EFL League One Goals **7.30** EFL League Two Goals **8.00** SPFL Round-Up **8.15** SPFL Highlights **8.30** EFL Highlights **8.45** EFL Highlights **9.00** EFL Highlights **9.15** EFL Highlights **9.30** EFL Highlights **9.45** EFL Highlights **10.00** Bundesliga Weekly **10.30** EFL League One Goals **11.00** EFL League Two Goals **11.30** EFL Greatest Games
12.00m't Henrik Larsson: 20 Years On **1.00** SPFL **1.30** SPFL Greatest Games **2.00** SPFL Highlights **2.15-6.00am** SPFL Greatest Games

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am PGA Tour: The Cut **6.30** PGA Tour Golf **7.30** PGA Tour Champions. From Hualalai.
8.30 LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Bahrain Championship. Coverage of day one of the tournament at Royal Golf Club in Al Mazrowiah.
1.30pm You Can Play Golf **2.00** TGL. Boston Common Golf Club v The Bay Golf Club. From Florida. **4.00** Beyond the Scorecard **4.30** PGA Tour Champions Learning Centre
5.00 LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The Farmers Insurance Open. Coverage of day one of the tournament at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego.
12.00m't You Can Play Golf **12.30** PGA Tour Golf **4.30** Best of the Open Zone 2016 **5.30-6.00am** Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips

TNT SPORTS 1

6.00am Australian Open. Highlights from day 11.
7.30 LIVE **Australian Open** Coverage of day 12 of the opening Grand Slam event of the season.
1.00pm Premier League Netbusters. All the best action. **1.30** TNT Sports Reload. The best bits.
2.00 LIVE **German Masters Snooker** Further coverage from the fourth day of the tournament.
5.00 Serie A – Full Impact **5.30** Premier League Stories **6.00** Premier League Netbusters **6.30** Premier League – The Big Interview
7.00 UEFA Europa League. Build-up to tonight. **7.45** UEFA Europa League Goals Show Xtra **11.00** Original Documentary **12.15am** Premier League Reload **12.30** Premier League – The Big Interview
1.00-6.45am LIVE **Australian Open** Day 13 of the opening Grand Slam event of the season, featuring the men's semi-finals at Melbourne Park.

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am UEFA Champions League Highlights Show **7.00** UEFA Champions League **8.30** Premier League Reload. All the best action.
8.45 LIVE **Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup** Coverage of the women's downhill training, which takes place at Crans Montana in Switzerland.
10.15 Original Documentary **11.00** UEFA Champions League Highlights Show
12.00noon UEFA Champions League **1.00** Longines FEI Jumping World Cup
2.00 LIVE **German Masters Snooker** Further coverage from the fourth day of the tournament, which takes place at Tempodrom in Berlin.
5.00 Spirit of Yachting **5.30** Australian Open
7.00 LIVE **UEFA Europa League** Aston Villa v RB Salzburg (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the league phase match from Villa Park.
10.00 UEFA Europa League Goals Show Xtra **11.00** Men's Cycling Pro Series
1.00am LIVE **Women's T20 Super Smash**
4.30 Premier League Reload. Highlights.
4.45-8.15am LIVE **T20 Super Smash** Coverage of the Elimination Final.

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.05** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.20pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Vera. Two people are murdered at a remote country house. **10.00** Foyle's War **12.00m't** Trial & Retribution **1.30-2.30am** The Larkins

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.10** Boon **11.20** The Sweeney **12.25pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.40** Kojak **3.45** Boon **4.50** The Sweeney **5.55** Minder **7.00** LIVE Darts: The World Masters. Coverage of day one from Arena MK in Milton Keynes. **11.00** Ligue 1 Highlights **11.30** Berlin Station. Yates ponders whether to reveal the Far Right operation to Hanes. **12.35am** The Sweeney **1.35** Minder **2.35** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Unwind with ITV

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **8.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Patients include Ihor, who has a lump on his neck 'the size of a ping pong ball'. **9.00** A&E After Dark **10.00** Ambulance: Code Red **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **1.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords **2.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **2.45** Skin A&E **3.35-4.00am** Friends

REALLY Freeview 44

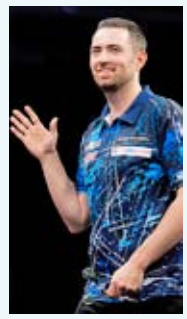
6.00am Celebrity Fantasy Homes **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Ghost Adventures. Zak Bagans and the crew roll into a Wild West town to confront a rumoured posse of volatile spirits. **10.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.05** Winter Road Rescue **9.40** Police Interceptors **11.35** FILM The Cimarron Kid (1952/U) ★★★ **1.25** FILM The Unforgiven (1960/PG) ★★★★ **4.00** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** Mud Mountain Haulers. The Glovers attempt to low bed their 45-ton winch to Erie Mountain. **10.00** Outback Truckers **11.00** Banged Up Abroad. Travelling nightmares. **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.00** Ice Road Truckers **2.05-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am The Australian Ballet: The Merry Widow **7.45** The Joy of Painting **8.55** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Sean Penn. A profile.



Darts: The World Masters Live
ITV4, 7pm
Day one of the tournament at Arena MK in Milton Keynes. 'Cool Hand' Luke Humphries (left) is the defending champion having beaten Jonny 'The Ferret' Clayton in the 2025 final.

1.00 Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Art of the Garden **3.00** World War II & Cinema **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Jean Harlow **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Landscape Artist of the Year 2026 **8.00** Discovering: Meryl Streep **9.00** FILM The Misfits (1961/PG) Western, starring Clark Gable. ★★★★ **11.20** The Directors **12.20am** FILM I Am Bruce Lee (2011/15) ★★★ **2.20** Science Fiction in the Atomic Age **3.20** Sky Arts Book Club **4.20** Inside Art: Lubaina Himid at Tate Modern **4.45-6.00am** National Trust: National Treasures

U&GOLD

7.30am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.05** The Green Green Grass **8.45** Dad's Army **9.25** Are You Being Served? **10.00** Porridge **10.40** Keeping Up Appearances **11.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Dad's Army **2.40** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Porridge **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Porridge **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** The Vicar of Dibley **10.50** Men Behaving Badly **11.25** The Vicar of Dibley **2.20am** Men Behaving Badly **2.50-4.00am** The Vicar of Dibley

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great Continental Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Secret Nazi Bases **11.00** World War Weird **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Secret Nazi Bases **5.00** World War Weird **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **9.00** Flipping Bangers **10.00** Bangers & Cash **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Secret Nazi Bases

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **10.00** Annika **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** SEAL Team **6.15** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** Evil **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Road Wars **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.20** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** The Last of Us **10.05** A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms **10.45** Deadwood **11.50** The Sopranos **2.00am** NEW Under Salt Marsh **4.10** Game of Thrones **5.10-6.00am** Fish Town

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Send in the Dogs **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Watson **4.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **5.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Three murders are linked to a pre-school with a long waiting list. **9.00** The Equalizer **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** Law & Order: Organized Crime **3.00** FBI **4.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** The Force: Manchester

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.20** Sex and the City **11.30** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.40** Ballers **3.50** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** James Acaster: Hecklers Welcome **10.30** And Just Like That **11.20** Community **12.20am** Entourage **1.20** Ballers **2.25** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.45-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Gold Rush: White Water **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Chasing Classic Cars. Vehicle restoration. **9.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford **10.00** In the Eye of the Storm **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford **2.00** In the Eye of the Storm **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Inside Incredible Machines **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: Secrets from Above **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Liberation: D-Day to Berlin **4.00** Raiders of the Civil War: Drain the Oceans **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Nazi Megastructures **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Toronto Airport Uncovered. A trainee bird-scaring dog is put to the test. **9.00** Nazi Megastructures: Death From Above **10.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Alaska: The Next Generation **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.00** Trafficked with Mariana Van Zeller **2.30** Made in a Day **3.20** Food Factory **4.10** Secrets of the Zoo: Keeper Tales **5.00-5.30am** Teleshopping

Movies

FILM4

11.00am Ten Tall Men (1951/U) Foreign Legion comedy adventure, starring Burt Lancaster and Kieron Moore. ★★★
12.55pm To Hell and Back (1955/PG) Second World War biopic, starring Audie Murphy and Marshall Thompson. ★★★
3.10 Santa Fe (1951/U) Western, starring Randolph Scott and Jerome Courtland. ★★★
4.55 Siege of the Saxons (1963/U) Medieval adventure, starring Ronald Lewis. ★★
6.40 Steel Magnolias (1989/PG) Drama, with Sally Field and Shirley MacLaine. ★★★★
9.00 A Man Called Otto (2022/15) Comedy drama, starring Tom Hanks. ★★★★
11.25 Bob Trevino Likes It (2024/12) Comedy drama, starring Barbie Ferreira. ★★★
1.30-3.55am What Men Want (2019/15) Romantic comedy, starring Taraji P Henson, Aldis Hodge and Kristen Ledlow. ★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am The Ballad of Wallis Island (2025/12) Comedy drama, starring Tim Key. ★★★★
7.50 Smurfs (2025/PG) See 5.30pm. ★★★
9.35 Borderline (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, starring Samara Weaving. ★★★
11.25 Xeno (2025/PG) See 7.10pm. ★★★
1.25pm Nuremberg (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★
4.00 Super Charlie (2024/PG) Family animation, with the voice of Alex Kelly. ★★★
5.30 Smurfs (2025/PG) Fantasy comedy, featuring the voice of Rihanna. ★★★
7.10 Xeno (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, with Lulu Wilson and Omari Hardwick. ★★★
9.00 The Toxic Avenger (2025/18) Comedy horror, starring Peter Dinklage. ★★★
10.45 Safe House (2025/15) Thriller, starring Holt McCallany and Ethan Embry. ★★★
12.20am All the Devils Are Here (2025/15) Thriller, starring Eddie Marsan. ★★★
1.55 Cookster: The Darkest Days (2024/15) Drama, starring Craige Middleburg. ★★★
3.55-5.30am Safe House (2025/15) See 10.45pm. ★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.05pm The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (2008/12) Drama, with David Thewlis. ★★★★
5.50 The Blind Side (2009/12) Drama, with Sandra Bullock and Quinton Aaron. ★★★★
8.00 Erin Brockovich (2000/15) Fact-based drama, starring Julia Roberts. ★★★★
10.15 Anora (2024/18) Comedy, with Mikey Madison and Paul Weissman. ★★★★
12.35am The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (2008/12) See 4.05pm. ★★★★
2.20 Five Easy Pieces (1970/15) Drama, with Jack Nicholson and Karen Black. ★★★★★
4.10-6.00am Beach Rats (2017/15) Drama, starring Madeline Weinstein. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.10pm Monster Trucks (2016/PG) Fantasy adventure, with Lucas Till and Jane Levy. ★★
6.00 The Smurfs (2011/U) Fantasy comedy, starring Neil Patrick Harris. ★★★
7.55 The Smurfs 2 (2013/U) Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Hank Azaria. ★★
9.55 Robin and the Hoods (2024/PG) Comedy, starring Gwendoline Christie. ★★★
11.50 Bookworm (2024/12) Comedy, starring Elijah Wood and Nell Fisher. ★★★
1.45am Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009/PG) Comedy, starring Kevin James. ★★★
3.30 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2 (2015/PG) Comedy, starring Kevin James. ★★
5.20-7.15am The Smurfs (2011/U) See 6.00pm. ★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.30pm Cover Girl Killer (1959/PG) Thriller, with Harry H Corbett and Felicity Young. ★★★
5.50 Dixon of Dock Green Police drama.
6.55 The Brothers The Hammonds are invited to a party held by an important client.
8.30 The Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club With Kenny Ball and Howard Keel.
9.20 Strip Tease Murder (1961/18) Crime drama, starring John Hewer. ★★★
10.40pm Black Memory (1947/PG) Crime drama, starring Michael Atkinson. ★★★
1.30am The Death of Adolf Hitler
3.40 Three Witnesses (1935/PG) Crime drama, with Henry Kendall and Garry Marsh. ★★★
5.00-6.00am Burke's Law Detective series.

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Diagnosis Murder Detective drama.
5.00 Murder, She Wrote Angela Lansbury stars.
6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye Jack seeks justice.
7.00 Castle American crime drama series.
8.00 Unforgettable Poppy Montgomery stars.
9.00 Picture Perfect Mysteries: Newlywed and Dead (2019/PG) Whodunit, starring Alexa PenaVega and Carlos PenaVega. ★★★
10.55 Lost Letter Mysteries: Reconcilable Differences (2014/12) Mystery, starring Eric Mabius and Kristin Booth. ★★★
12.50am Fatal Memories (2015) Mystery thriller, starring Italia Ricci. ★★★★
2.30 Framed By My Sister (2021/12) Thriller, starring Scout Taylor-Compton. ★★★
4.05-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Jerry **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Rave-Up with Arielle Free **10.00** BBC Introducing on Radio 1 Dance with Jaguar **11.00** Radio 1's Residency **1.00am** Danny Howard's Club Mix **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00-5.00am** Radio 1's Workout Anthems

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am The Scott Mills Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** DJ Spoony **4.00** OJ Borg **6.30** OJ Borg's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris **10.00** The Good Groove with Melvin Odoom **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **4.00-6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: On Disappointment **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE
Drama: Silent Tide
Radio 4, 2.15pm
A haunting new murder mystery from crime writer Lucia Haynes. On the windswept shore of a remote Scottish island, the body of gifted surfer Santiago is washed up. The local police are quick to rule it a tagic accident. But his sister Mariana – a detective in Buenos Aires – can't let it rest.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** In Our Time **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** This Cultural Life **11.45** Book of the Week: Craftland **12.00noon** News **12.04** The Bottom Line **12.30** Sliced Bread **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** The Fibre Factor **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Silent Tide **3.00** Ramblings **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal **3.30** Word of Mouth **4.00** Rethink **4.30** BBC Inside Science **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** What's the Story, Ashley Storrie? **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** When It Hits the Fan **8.15** The Media Show **9.00** Loose Ends **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Memory Police **11.00** Radical with Amol Rajan **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Craftland **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News Summary **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **7.30** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport: The Euro Leagues Podcast **10.00** Tony Livesey **1.00-5.00am** Frances Finn

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Country Focus **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Behnaz Akhgar **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Kiri's Comedy Club **7.00** Aleighcia Scott **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

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21 NIGHTS DEPARTING 26TH FEBRUARY 2027

FEBRUARY 2027

Fri 26 **Embark *Ventura* and depart Southampton**

MARCH 2027

Tue 2 **Cartagena, Spain**

Thu 4 **Tunis (from La Goulette), Tunisia**

Fri 5 **Valletta, Malta**

Sun 7 **Athens (from Piraeus), Greece**

Tue 9 **Naples, Italy**

Wed 10 **Rome (from Civitavecchia), Italy**
Rome's breathtaking monuments, palaces, churches and classical features are quite unlike anything you will find in any other European city

Fri 12 **Barcelona, Spain**
Barcelona provides a vivid mix of ancient and modern but is probably best known for the Art Nouveau architecture of Antonio Gaudi, in particular the iconic Sagrada Familia

Sat 13 **Alicante, Spain**

Mon 15 **Seville (from Cádiz), Spain**

Tue 16 **Lisbon, Portugal**

Fri 19 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea

YOUR CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

Valletta, Malta
The fortifications at Malta's Grand Harbour speak volumes about her past, indeed her reputation for valour during the Second World War earned her the George Cross.

Athens, Greece
The Acropolis - 'High City' - will always be the top attraction from Athens cruise port Piraeus. Don't miss the Acropolis Museum for some background info, then take the marble path up Filopappou Hill for sweeping views of the 'high city' with the iconic Parthenon perched on top (a temple dedicated to the goddess Athena, patron of the city).

Naples, Italy
Cruising into the Bay of Naples is a memorable experience. The Naples cruise port is overlooked by the imposing Sant Elmo medieval castle, high up on Vemero Hill, as well as the 13th century Castel Nuovo, which is right next to the Naples cruise terminal in the heart of the city. Within a short walk, to the left of the terminal, are three of Naples best-known landmarks: Castel Nuovo, the 17th century Royal Palace (Palazzo Reale), and the elaborate 18th century San Carlo Opera House.

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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Starmer likes U-turns, so do next one on Rwanda

KEIR Starmer, the man who vowed to "smash the gangs" and went on to establish the idiotic "one in, one out" illegal migrants scheme with France, called the Rwanda deportation deal a gimmick when he and Yvette Cooper cancelled it, chucking away £290million of taxpayers' money.

Now, 60,000 illegal arrivals later, while scratching around in the Balkans to find an alternative to Rwanda, he's getting sued by the Rwandan government for breach of contract ("UK is sued 'for £50m' after Rwandan asylum pact axed", January 27). What about a U-turn Starmer, save the £50m and see if Rwanda works?

Barrie Warren,
Bury, Lancs

Suspend ECHR and bribe nations to take our illegals

IF LABOUR refuses to consider leaving the European Convention on Human Rights, let it suspend membership for at least a year.

There are numerous countries around the world that would, with a cash incentive, accept the UK's illegal migrants.

An expert could assess which country is likely to be closest to the migrant's home country and culture. Simply ship them there, perhaps with a small subsistence payment. The cross-Channel dinghies would soon cease.

John Lavender,
Port Erin, Isle of Man

Kids are brainwashed by leftie schools and unis

THE reason the Labour Party only gets into government every now and then is that it completely messes up the country and the economy and gets voted out for 10 or 15 years.

In the meantime, young kids who have been brainwashed at schools and universities have no idea of the damage Labour caused in the past, and go out and vote for it.

Our education system is completely dominated by the left wing, and it needs to change.

Steve Collard,
Beckenham, Gtr London

Trump's US no longer our friend, so make new ones

IT'S time Keir Starmer stopped grovelling to Donald Trump and gave up chasing trade deals with our former ally, whose word could not be trusted even if deals are made. Just accept the "special relationship" that may once have existed between the UK and the US is dead ("Veterans and families slam 'ultimate insult' from president", January 24).

The PM's energies should be channelled into making deals with nations we can trust – Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and the EU. The US is no longer the hub around which the rest of the world spins. In just one year, Trump has turned the world order on its head, alienated all his country's former allies and made it a laughing stock.

Bob Readman,
Sevenoaks, Kent

LETTER OF THE DAY

BAD DEAL: Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron

Hey Macron! We want our £400m back

IS ANYONE in Keir Starmer's pathetic Government going to stand up to Emmanuel Macron and get what's left of our £400million and then tell him we are going use whatever force is necessary to stop this continual plague of illegal migrants ("Quelle totale farce?", January 28)?

Nigel Farage says he will use Navy ships to turn these boats back to France. Unfortunately he will need to wait for the next election. The PM isn't remotely interested because his head is too far up his own backside to recognise the issues this will cause in the near future.

Vladimir Putin is causing havoc across the EU and doesn't care where he recruits people from. Come on Starmer, listen to your people.

Peter Rushton,
Chorley, Lancs

Keir's been played like a fiddle over Burnham bid

NEVER believing anything that is happening today in the political arena, I wonder if Andy Burnham's application to stand as an MP was entirely as it was presented ("Martyr Burnham's a real night-mayor", January 27)?

Why would he give up the office of mayor for a lesser post in government on the backbenches? Taking a £20,000 salary drop to become an MP? Not convinced about that either.

Or could it all have been foreseen that Keir Starmer would block Burnham's application from going forward and that this was a ruse being used to simply further destabilise Starmer's already precarious position, and therefore making it much easier to oust him after the local elections?

This would then give time for opposition to foment among the backbenchers already set on removing their leader.

Anthony Richardson,
Stirling

Labour burns our money, why stop at by-election?

ANDY Burnham has been denied the opportunity to stand as a candidate in the now vacant seat of Gorton and Denton.

Labour's National Executive Committee, including Keir Starmer in its number, voted eight to one against Burnham and the "very determined" Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, interestingly decided to abstain rather than support Starmer, maybe she has insight into the future?

Labour's claim that it wanted to save the expense of a mayoral election in Manchester is laughable, when you consider it has wasted so much money on more than a dozen U-turns since being elected.

David Hardman,
Morley, Derbys

Use social media to hunt 'dine and dash' walkers

IT IS unbelievable that a pair of lowlife walkers, one using a hospital crutch, should take all the hospitality given after their rescue in the Lake District. Sneaking off while leaving an unpaid £130 hotel bill. These ignorant, selfish, freeloading scum should be named and shamed ("Rescued pair run off", January 27).

Volunteers from the Wasdale Mountain Rescue team spent seven hours rescuing this useless pair from Scafell Pike, risking their own safety. Let's find the pair and name and shame them. For once, social media might prove useful.

Art Finch,
Richmond, London

Water torture by Thames over 80% hike in my bill

AND still it rains. Water companies must be the only industry in the world that gets its raw materials free of charge ("Storm brings havoc", January 28). In a recent conversation with Thames Water, it told me it had put up its prices by 40.7% in 2025 but when I asked why it had put my prices up far beyond this (around 80%) and my account appeared to be in credit, it claimed I am now using more water. How can this be? I'm still in the same house and I'm still single occupancy. This is daylight robbery.

Patricia East,
Guildford, Surrey

Israeli military should join 'stop the hate' too

THE front page said it all ("Now stop the hate" January 27). I can't help thinking the Israeli strikes on hospitals and schools, killing innocent women and children, means it doesn't apply to them. Two wrongs will never make a right.

Ian Tawse,
Bewdley, Worcs

MAKE TENNIS BRATS PLAY ON WITH THEIR SMASHED RACKETS

COCO Gauff, the world No.3, is upset that her smashing up a tennis racket after her loss at the Australian Open was captured on a camera and then broadcast. Is she being childish about being childish ("Coco's going loco at racket smash video", January 28)? There are millions of children who would like to play tennis but can't, given the cost of a racket, and would be delighted to get one of her cast-offs – although not the one we saw.

They should make players who smash rackets play with them for the next game, set and then disqualified.

Dennis Fitzgerald,
Melbourne, Australia

TODAY: Thursday January 29, 2026

ON THIS DAY

40 years ago (1986)
We revealed the grief of the families of the astronauts who had died in the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster.

All seven astronauts died when their spacecraft exploded one minute after lift-off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The crew included teacher Christa McAuliffe, 37, who was chosen from 10,000 competition entrants.

The accident came 19 years and one day after the Apollo 1 tragedy which killed three US astronauts.

67 years ago (1959)
Parts of the country were brought to a standstill by a dense fog which caused travel chaos.

London was the worst affected with all public transport cancelled and air pollution recorded at five times higher than normal levels. Chemists also reported a spike in the sale of smog masks.

50 years ago (1976)
The IRA detonated 12 bombs in London's West End, including one in Selfridges on Oxford Street. The devices exploded during the night, injuring a taxi driver. The 1970s marked the deadliest years of the Troubles as the IRA waged a bombing campaign on high-profile targets in England.

BIRTHDAYS

Actress **Heather Graham** is 56. She is a keen poker player. Singer **Rag'n'Bone Man** is 41. His real name is Rory Charles Graham. Magnum, P.I. star **Tom Selleck** is 81. His famous moustache has its own social media presence. Actor **Michael Smiley** is 63. He shared a flat with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost in the 1990s.

TODAY'S GIGGLE
I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

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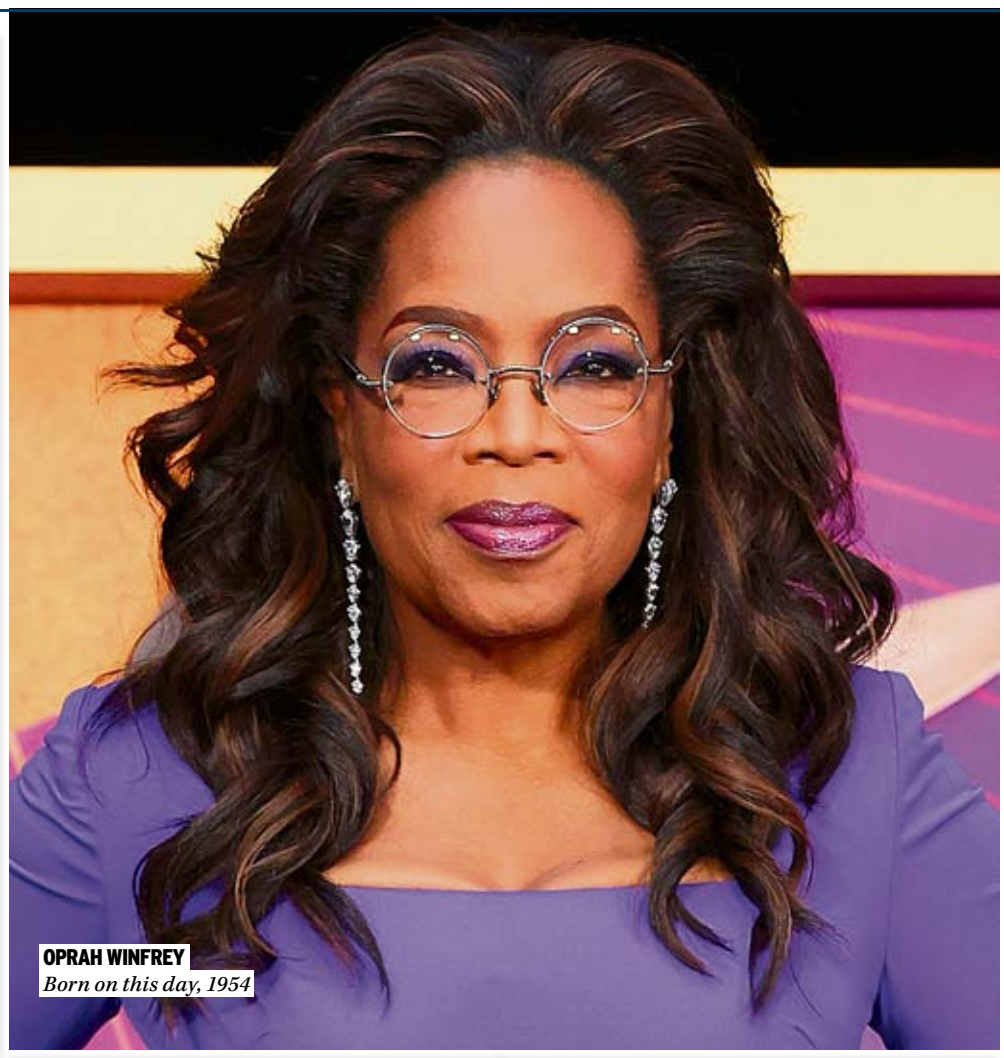

OPRAH WINFREY
Born on this day, 1954

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

If you aren't involved in a team effort or group or friendship activities, you will start to feel as if something is lacking in your life. Now and in the months ahead, being around others will make you feel as if you are making the best of your time and efforts. Reach out to old friends to begin this journey. You may discover new facets of joy within these familiar bonds.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

This is turning out to be a productive time for you. You feel a strong need to make changes in both your workplace and home. You aren't however being selfish in this but thoughtful and considerate in your planning. Your suggestions impress senior colleagues. As you navigate these transformations, trust that your instincts will guide you onwards.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

You want to feel people are taking your views seriously. Even so, when conversations involve more than three people, be sure to listen to what others are talking about. You could learn a lot about what is and has been going on in certain areas. Pin your ears back and take note of what's being said. Embrace the chance to broaden your perspective.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

You're facing some very clever and cunning people. That's why you will be careful about what you do and say in front of them. You have a feeling that a legal or business matter is going your way but you won't count your chickens. Trust your instincts, for they might lead you to unexpected alliances that can bolster your confidence even further.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

Partnerships, joint arrangements and activities with close friends continue to be prominent, suggesting that it is not individual efforts but rather collective ones that will get your interest. While one friend isn't being helpful, another will be incredibly supportive. Teaming up with the right person will be beneficial, opening doors to new avenues.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

You have a chance to agree on plans for holidays, sporting events and any activities related to the arts and entertainment. You might also want to discuss the care and education of children in the family or young people who look to you for support and guidance. Embrace this chance to forge deeper connections. Your insights will be valued.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

Discussions within the family or with housemates will lead you to making some key decisions. You sense that whatever you decide, support will be available whenever you need it. Even so, if these decisions might tie-up your finances, be absolutely certain this is what you want to do. Take a moment to consider how these choices will shape your shared future.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Make some time to get together with housemates and relatives to discuss plans for making your future more secure. Go over contracts and property details if you're in the process of buying a home. With everyone in a practical frame of mind, they will want to take every detail into consideration. Emphasising cooperation will help create a unified vision.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

A meeting will go well and you will leave a positive impression on your superiors and important figures in your community. People see you as being reliable, conscientious and helpful. Just be sure to avoid any actions, later, that might lead them to think otherwise when you find yourself spending time with someone who could lead you astray.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

You're making some serious plans. This will involve assessing your income and debts. You are likely to find new ways for making money but your primary focus will be on minimising expenditures and cutting down on unnecessary luxuries. As you navigate this process, keep an eye out for unexpected opportunities that may arise.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

Your thoughts are now focused on the more serious side of life; your goals, current and future commitments, past successes and recent failures. If you learn from your mistakes, you should be able to make the right decisions now that will lead you to a better future. Embrace this reflective period as a chance to truly understand what you want.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

Any form of behind-the-scenes research will prove advantageous. The insights gained today have the potential to improve your financial situation. This is not necessarily an increase in income but rather guidance on how to lower your expenses. As you delve deeper, you may find unexpected avenues of saving that resonate with your values.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
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RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.26

"Just one more royal name to find!
And I've brought two pals. Do you mind?"

"Oh, look! That cloth they've spread
Has put an idea in my head!"

"You really have done well," laughs Captain Chubb. "If we can only think of that other royal name..." "By the way," Rupert interrupts, "I do hope you don't mind – two friends of mine have come along to picnic by your pool." As he speaks he climbs onto a box to point out where Podgy and Rosalie are preparing their picnic. "Why, that's given me just the clue I need!" he exclaims as he sees his chums spreading a chequered cloth.

CALVIN AND HOBBES
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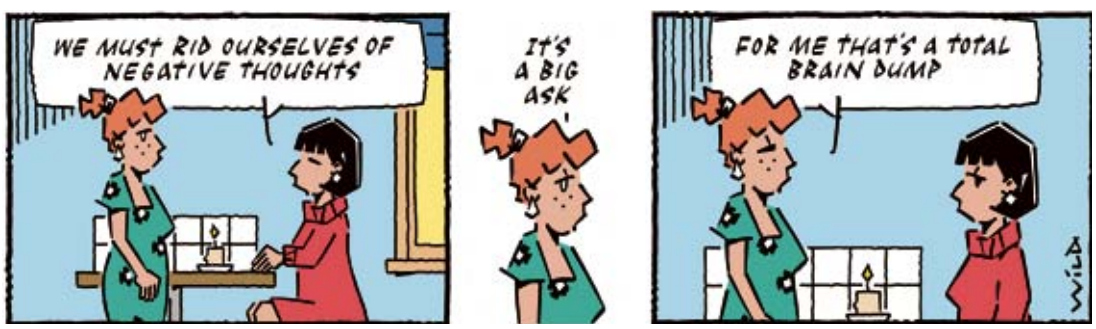
FAITH, HOPE AND SUE
LISA WILD



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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	10154.4	▼	-53.3
FTSE 250	23390.6	▼	-13.4
FTSE ALL SHARE	5482.4	▼	-25.6
Shares Traded	12.703 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
Aviva	634½	+8½
BP	456	+4
BT Group	189¾	+2½
Centrica	191	+3½
Int Consolidated Airlines	418	+1½
Marks & Spencer Group	370	+4½
National Grid	1230½	+8
Saga	434	+7½
Shell	2732½	+35½
Vodafone Group	106¼	+¾

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
Abrdn	218¾	-½
AstraZeneca	13508	-372
BAE Systems	1995½	-16½
Barclays	479¾	-10
Convatec Group	229¼	-3¾
GSK	1817½	-45
Haleon	372½	-4
HSBC Holdings	1258½	-18½
Lloyds Banking Group	104½	-¾
NatWest Group	657¼	-10½
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1208	-32
Sainsbury (J)	316½	-1
Tesco	419½	-½
Unilever	4815½	-49
Whitbread	2749	-31

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	49015.6	▲	+12.2
TOKYO	53358.7	▲	+25.2
HONG KONG	27826.9	▲	+700.0
GERMANY	24822.8	▼	-71.6
FRANCE	8066.7	▼	-86.1

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.378	▼	-0.008
Yen	211.652	▲	+0.823
Euro	1.154	▲	+0.004

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	153.643	▲	+1.4525
Dollar/Euro	0.838	▲	+0.0079

COMMODITIES		
GOLD($)	▲	5298.11
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲	3843.33
SILVER(pence)	▲	8314.79
BRENT CRUDE($)	▲	66.85

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+4.2% (CPI +3.4%)
House price Index	+2.5%
Unemployment	1,840,000

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Eurozone	1.13 euro
Hong Kong	10.13 dollar
Hungary	409.37 forint
Israel	4.00 shekel
Japan	202.07 yen
Jordan	0.91 dinar
Mexico	22.42 peso
New Zealand	2.23 dollar
Norway	12.77 krone
Poland	4.59 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.93 riyal
South Africa	20.95 rand
Sweden	11.55 krona
Switzerland	1.03 franc
Thailand	41.02 baht
Turkey	55.76 lira
United States	1.36 dollar

Banks cool on interest rate cut after tick-up in inflation

By **Mauricio Alnecar**

TOP City banks have hit pause on predictions for the Bank of England's next interest rate cut.

It comes as forecasters are split on whether high inflation could upend monetary policy decisions.

UBS Investment Bank economist Anna Titareva pushed back a call for the Bank's next cut from February to March after the Office for National Statistics said that price growth ticked up to 3.4% in the year to December 2025.

Bailey has made deciding calls

Ms Titareva, who believes interest rates will fall from 3.75% to 3.25% this year, had predicted the Bank's monetary policy committee would back a cut as early as next week.

She maintained that the next vote in early February would be close, as Governor Andrew Bailey could make the deciding call for the third time in a row.

She said: "In December, we flagged the MPC's cautious tone, particularly the fact that despite voting for a cut, Andrew Bailey and deputy governors Sarah Breeden and Sir Dave Ramsden referred to the strength of forward looking wage growth indicators as a risk factor for inflation," Ms Titareva said. "Our new call assumes that after a pause next week, the Bank will cut again by 25 basis points to 3.5% on March 19, at which point the MPC will have the January inflation print, which we expect to show the first significant step down in inflation."

Analysts at US banking giant Morgan Stanley also pushed back their predictions for a rate cut from February to March after inflation overshot forecasts.

Competing forecasters are now split on the number of cuts to be made this year, with economists attempting to measure the impact of Chancellor Rachel Reeves' Budget on price growth as well as people's expectations.

The Bank and the Office for Budget Responsibility have suggested Budget measures to strip energy subsidies from household bills could lower inflation by up to 0.5%.

Barclays, NatWest, Nomura and Pantheon Macroeconomics have predicted just one interest rate cut this year.

However, economists at Berenberg, HSBC and Capital Economics have pencilled in three cuts as inflation eases to the target of 2%.

PLT LOOKS PRETTY GOOD FOR DEBENHAMS

PrettyLittleThing is shaping up to be a success

ONLINE clothes seller Debenhams is to retain PrettyLittleThing after considering selling the fast-fashion brand.

It has recently seen major improvements in profitability.

The retailer, which rebranded from Boohoo Group in March 2025, issued a trading update, saying: "The Board had previously held [PLT] as an asset for sale.

"Given the success we are seeing with the turnaround, the momentum and the opportunity ahead as a fashion-led marketplace, the brand will be retained."

Debenhams is trading above expectations, and anticipating full-year profit before tax to reach £50m.

Retailer is wielding the axe

Amazon delivering 16,000 job cuts in latest round

AMAZON is cutting around 16,000 jobs globally to streamline operations.

The latest major round of lay-offs at the retail tech giant comes only three months after it axed 14,000 roles.

The losses were apparently revealed by mistake in a shared message that was later withdrawn. However, bosses confirmed its contents. It is understood most posts will go in the US but the UK will also be hit.

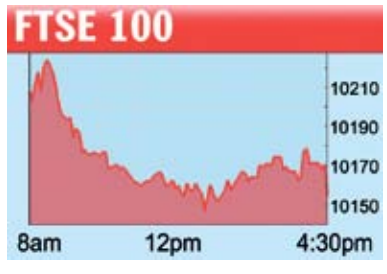
Amazon's Beth Galetti told staff in a blog post: "We've been working to strengthen our organisation by reducing layers, increasing ownership and removing bureaucracy." Last year, boss Andy Jassy suggested the firm is likely to reduce its staff count as it ramps up AI use. It employed around 1.57 million staff at the end of September last year, with about 75,000 of those in the UK.

Earlier this week, bosses confirmed the closure of remaining Amazon Fresh and Go retail stores across the US.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3147	+12	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1906½	+3	2337	1838
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	351½	-9	372¾	132
Alliance Trust	1266	+4	1324	1050
Anglo American	3476	+27	3555	2003¾
Antofagasta	3708	-48	3866½	1383
Ashtead Group	5112#	+78	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	13508	-372	14346	9667
Auto Trader	556¾	+8	908½	548¾
Aviva	634½	+8½	692½	493
Babcock International	1489	-5	1520	523
BAE Systems	1995½	-16½	2093	1180½
Barclays	479¾	-10	491	241¾
Barratt Development	391½	+3¾	482¼	350
Beazley Group	1133	-1	1170	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4134	+60	4324	3524
BP	456	+4	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4332#	-6	4421	2965
British Land	415½	+5½	420½	321¼
BT Group	189¾#	+2½	222¾	141¾
Bunzl	2052	+34	3452	1989
Burberry Group	1115	-55	1371½	627¾
Centrica	191	+3½	191	135¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3938	+26	4034	2788
Compass Group	2198#	+17	2843	2167
Convatec Group	229¼	-3¾	295½	221¼
CRH	8856	-100	9704	6142
Croda International	2748	-31	3383	2465
DCC	4662	+82	5600	4350
Diageo	1622½	+13	2495	1577
Diploma	5405#	-85	5685	3624
EasyJet	475¾	+5	587¾	427½
Entain	637½	-11	1022	501¼
Experian Group	2719#	-66	4088	2719
F&C Inv Tst	1249#	+4	1272	962
Flutter Entert.	12175	-230	23630	12125
Fresnillo	4116	-24	4448	657

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Games Workshop	17430#	-250	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1817½	-45	1901½	1264
Glencore	505¾	+2	510	230
Haleon	372½	-4	415¼	326½
Halma	3568#	-86	3710	2360
Hikma	1533	-12	2340	1507
Hiscox	1493	-35	1529	1035
HSBC Holdings	1258½	-18½	1280½	713¼
IMI	2716	+2	2734	1606
Imperial Brands	3028	+7	3312	2662
Informa	886½	-6¾	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	9709¼	-3890¾	10068½	5389¼
Intermediate Cap.Grp	1862	-11	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4492	+10	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	418	+1½	437	224½
JD Sports	82½	-2	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	336¾	+5¼	338	240¼
Land Securities	653½	+5½	659	499½
Legal & General	264¾	+4	267¾	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	104½	-¾	105½	61¼
London & Stamford Prop	201¼	+1	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	8296	+38	12095	8138



COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
M&G	309	+1½	311	172¾
Marks & Spencer	370	+4½	411¼	318½
Melrose	627½	-14½	680	386
Mondi	887		1326	819
National Grid	1230½	+8	1232	919¾
NatWest Group	657¼	-10½	667½	411¼
Next	13590	+35	14580	9520
Pearson	949	+7¼	1379	927
Pershing Square Hold	4598	+50	5090	3244
Persimmon	1449½	+26½	1449½	1037½
Phoenix Group	743½	+10	748½	499¼
Prudential	1199	+18	1203	655
Reckitt Benckiser	5940	-22	6228	4633
RELX	2692	-28	4135	2672½
Rentokil Initial	465¾	-11½	480¾	309½
Rightmove	507¼	-¼	823¾	494½
Rio Tinto	6751	+23	6780	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1208	-32	1305	582¾
Sage Group	995½#	+5¾	1348	988½
Sainsbury (J)	316½	-1	355¾	228¾
Schroders	449¼	-3½	467	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1235½	+25½	1239	815¼
SEGRO	760	+8½	763½	599
Severn Trent	2932	+31	2932	2370
Shell	2732½	+35½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1227	-16	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2530	-86	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3113	-30	4454	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7330	-60	8190	5445
SSE	2413#	+16	2419	1463½
St James's Place	1505½	+8	1515½	791
Standard Chartered	1841½	-12½	1878½	878¾
Tesco	419½	-½	475½	314½
Unilever	4815½	-49	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1244#	+11	1248	944½
Vodafone Group	106¼#	+¾	106¼	64
Weir Group	3258	-18	3298	1984
Whitbread	2749	-31	3274	2335

Hotels firm lodges rates complaint

HOTELS giant Travelodge has warned that recent government policies have made trading conditions "more challenging" after the sector missed out on fresh business rates relief.

In a trading update a day after the Treasury announced additional tax relief for pubs and music venues, Travelodge's boss Jo Boydell said the move is "neglecting the broader hospitality sector".

Travelodge said that its business rates bill is set to increase from £38million a year in 2025 to £50m in 2026, with "further significant rises" in the following years.

The 625-strong hotel business also reported that group revenues increased by 0.7% to £1.04billion for 2025.

This was supported by a "good" performance in the final quarter.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1814	-62	2180	1338
Babcock International	1489	-5	1520	523
BAE Systems	1995½	-16½	2093	1180½
Chemring Group	516	-10	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	520#	+1½	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1208	-32	1305	582¾
Senior	252	-1	259	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	866	-4	900	626
Banks				
Barclays	479¾	-10	491	241¾
Bco Santander	922	-9	953	400½
Close Brothers	523	+1½	550½	266½
HSBC Holdings	1258½	-18½	1280½	713¼
Investec	597½	-7½	605	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	104½	-¾	105½	61¼
Metro Bank	133½	-1	138¾	81
NatWest Group	657¼	-10½	667½	411¼
Paragon Group	873½	-6½	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1841½	-12½	1878½	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	643	+6	711	593
Coca-Cola HBC	3938	+26	4034	2788
Diageo	1622½	+13	2495	1577
Chemicals				
Carclo	55¾	-¼	80	21
Croda International	2748	-31	3383	2465
Elementis	163	-2½	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2384#	+16	2396	1156
Synthomer	54½	+½	158¼	46
Treatt	205	-6	444	186½
Victrex	735	-8	1048	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	714½	-8	735	390½
Costain Group	177	-1¾	181½	94
CRH	8856	-100	9704	6142
Dialight	320	+20	364	101
Galliford Try	533	-4	546	321
Gleeson (MJ)	398	+2	538	320
Keller Group	1754		1774	1240
Kier Group	220½	-2½	231½	115¼
Marshalls	159	+¾	293	158¼
Morgan Sindall	4880	-80	4995	2945
Severfield-Rowen	27½	-1	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½#		132½	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	910½	-7½	918	536½
SSE	2413#	+16	2419	1463½
Telecom Plus	1362	+4	2085	1326
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	646	+25	738	486
Halma	3568#	-86	3710	2360
Oxford Instruments	2540	+25	2570	1500
Renishaw	3775	+35	3875	2145
TT Electronics	109¼	-½	154	73
XP Power	1224	-36	1306	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	384	+1	386	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1680		1684	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1266	+4	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	274	-1	279	212½
AVI Global Tst	263	-½	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	903	-7	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	134¾	-2¼	140	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	132¾#		136	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	413	+½	415½	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1245	-25	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	1016	+4	1034	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼		31	28¼
British Assets Tst	27¾		49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst	1452	-8	1500	1140
Caledonia Inv.	3701/2	-5½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	430	+4	436	165¾
City Of London	544#	-3	549	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	308		312	262
Edin Wwide Inv	226½	+½	229½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	805	-5	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	385#	+8	386½	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¾		41	36½
F&C Cap&Inc.	350	-2	354	287
F&C Inv Tst	1249#	+4	1272	962
F&C Smaller Cos	182¼#	-¼	184¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1382½	-17½	1480	1115
Fidelity Asian	620	-2	628	454
Fidelity European	427½	-6	435	338½
Fidelity Special	433		436	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	781	-7	962	779½
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1198	+2	1224	632
Graphite Ent	1522	-24	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	274	+1	276	190
Hansa Tst Plc	275	+1	278	192½
Henderson Far Est	256	+½	258½	190½
Henderson High Inc	195#	-½	196½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2580	-15	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	485	-22	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	117	-½	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	413½	-4½	431	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	940	-14	996	480
International Public	126¾	-½	130	107¾
Invesco Asia	437		447	300
Invesco Perp UK	390½	+2½	392	313½
JPM American	1114	-4	1178	869
JPM Asian	491#	+1	496½	331½
JPM Claverhouse	882	+4	890	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	146½#	+½	147	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	627#	-3	630	444½
JPM Global Emerging	186	+1½	187	118½
JPM Indian	946	-4	1106	904
JPM Japanese	743#	-1	759	493
JPM Overseas IT	577	-2	609	480
JPM Smaller Co	342½		345	253
JPM US Sml Co.	405	-6	514	338
Jupiter Euro.	927	-13	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	185		220	176
Law Debenture	1128	-8	1140	788
Lowland Invest Co	169½#	-1	170½	114½
Majedie Inv.	276	-4	284	230
Manchester&Lon.	784	-4	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	347#	-7	382	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT 3	34½		38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	266#	-1½	269	202½
Merchants Tst	623	-3	626	474
Mid Wynd Int.	774	-4	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1538	+8	1554	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	168½	-1½	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	105½#		106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	926	-6	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	335½#	+1	337	239
New India	708	+4	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	128	-1½	131	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst				
Northern 2 VCT	53½		57	52
Northern Venture	56½		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	7	+½	8	5½
Pacific Assets.	371		378	302
Pacific Horizon	899	+17	903	507
Pantheon Int.	379½	-4	389	266
Pershing Square Hold	4598	+50	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	504	+7	507	255½
RCM Technology Trust	554	+1	560	307
RIT Capital Partners	2185	-15	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment	300	-2	308	272½
Schroder Asia	702#	+2	705	461½
Schroder Inc.	353#	-1	357	255
Schroder Japan	326#	+1	334	209
Schroder UK	207	-1	211	158½
Schroder UK M&S	756	+6	756	520
Scottish American	518	-4	528	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1235½	+25½	1239	815¼
Shires Inc.	318#	-2	320	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	137	-½	150½	124
Standard Life Equity	423	+2	424	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	519	-3	531	426
Temple Bar.	380	-1½	386½	258
Templeton Emrg.	264#	+3	266½	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	109½#	-1	111½	84
Throgmorton Tst.	659	-1	664	469
TR Euro.Growth	229½		230	163
TR Prop. IT	330½	+1½	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	318½	+3½	322	223
Wwide Healthcare	365	-6½	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3147	+12	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	372½	-2½	385	301
Abrdn	218¾	-½	225¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	239	-1	243¾	125
Guinness Peat Group	87	+¼	96	68¼
IG Group	1372	+8	1372	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	1862	-11	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	236		237	121½
IP Group	59½		65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	189¼	+¾	191½	68
Liontrust Asset Man	237½	-5½	458	231½
London Stock Ex.	8296	+38	12095	8138
M&G	309	+1½	311	172¾
Man Group	256½	-1¾	271¾	154¾
Provident Financial	120¾	+2	128½	50
Rathbone Brothers	2205	-5	2240	1406
S & U	2390	+50	2390	1330
Schroders	449¼	-3½	467	289¼
St James's Place	1505½	+8	1515½	791
Tullett Prebon.	256½	+½	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13¼	-¼	14	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	351½	-9	372¾	132
BT Group	189¾#	+2½	222¾	141¾
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1647	+14	2182	1418
Marks & Spencer	370	+4½	411¼	318½
Ocado	245¾	+1	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	316½	-1	355¾	228¾
Tesco	419½	-½	475½	314½
Food Producers				
A.B. Foods	1906½	+3	2337	1838
Anglo-Eastern	1465	-10	1525	650
Carr's Milling	138#		157	117
Cranswick	5270	-20	5490	4625
Glanbia	1446¾	+69¼	1446¾	788¼
Greencore Group	283½#	+2½	286½	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs	6271¾	-190½	8749¼	6167¾
Premier Foods	188¾		214½	167
REA Holdings	133	+3	135	61½
Tate & Lyle	382	+4¾	661	358
Gas, Water & Multiutilities				
Centrica	191	+3½	191	135¼
National Grid	1230½	+8	1232	919¾
Pennon Group	565	+8	567	387½
Severn Trent	2932	+31	2932	2370
United Utilities	1244#	+11	1248	944½
General Industrials				
Bunzl	2052	+34	3452	1989
Goodwin	25900	-200	26700	6180
Melrose	627½	-14½	680	386
Mondi	887		1326	819
Smiths Group	2530	-86	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3113	-30	4454	2558
General Retailers				
ASOS	328	+1½	436½	218½
Auto Trader	556¾	+8	908½	548¾
B&M Europ Value Ret	176	+6	344½	155¼
Caffyns	415		500	415
Dixons Carphone	147¾#		148	85¼
Dunelm	932	-10½	1232	858½
Frasers Group	700	+5	770	546
Halfords Group	149½	+1	174½	116¼
Headlam Group.	43¾	-1¼	133	43¼
Howden Joinery	844½	+5	914½	679½
Inchcape	815	+1½	823	638
JD Sports	82½	-2	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	336¾	+5¼	338	240¼
Next	13590	+35	14580	9520
Pets At Home	211¼	+10¾	273¼	192¾
RM Group	107	-3	115	82
Topps Tiles	42#	-1	50	29
WH Smith	680#		1307	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	229¼	-3¾	295½	221¼
Flying Brands	+½		1¾	+½
Smith & Nephew	1227	-16	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	391½	+3¾	482¼	350
Bellway	2750	+30	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4134	+60	4324	3524
Bovis Homes	668	+1½	701	510¾
Mcbride	156½	+2½	159	107
Persimmon	1449½	+26½	1449½	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	5940	-22	6228	4633
Taylor Wimpey	108	+1½	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	757½	+½	772	460½
Hill & Smith	2245	-30	2360	1530
IMI	2716	+2	2734	1606
Morgan Crucible	230½	-2	274	177½
Northgate	381	+5	395	273½
Rotork	348½	-4¾	356	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7330	-60	8190	5445
Vesuvius	466¼	-6	480½	313¾
Weir Group	3258	-18	3298	1984
Xaar	109	+1	145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings	269½	-8½	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	78½	-½	110¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	216	-1	275	201
Clarkson	4100	-10	4505	2995
FirstGroup	184¼	+½	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	388½	-2½	403	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop	17430#	-250	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	139½	+1½	230	132
Life Insurance				
Aviva	634½	+8½	692½	493
Chesnara.	306		308½	212¾
Legal & General	264¾	+4	267¾	215¼
Phoenix Group	743½	+10	748½	499¼
Prudential	1199	+18	1203	655
Media				
4imprint Group	4120	-95	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	488	-13	666	468
Future	553#	+5½	1029	492½
Informa	886½	-6¾	993½	640¼
ITV	81¾	-1	87¾	66¼
Pearson	949	+7¼	1379	927
Reach	65½	+1½	88¼	53
STV Group	113	+1	202	103
Wilmington Group.	303	+1	387	289
WPP Group	307	-3	787¾	269
Mining				
Anglo American	3476	+27	3555	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	147½#	+3½	152½	50
Antofagasta	3708	-48	3866½	1383
BHP Billiton	2557	+31	2574	1609½
Endeavour Mining	4530	+186	4560	1532
Fresnillo.	4116	-24	4448	657
Gem Diamonds.	2¾	-¼	12	2¾
Glencore	505¾	+2	510	230
Hochschild Mining.	729	+½	757	168
Kenmare Res.	265½	+6½	436	227
Petra Diamonds	16	-¼	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6751	+23	6780	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	106¼#	+¾	106¼	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1240	-45	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2030	-90	2220	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	1133	-1	1170	769
Hiscox	1493	-35	1529	1035
Lancashire	610	-3	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	456	+4	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	239½	+10½	326½	183
Enquest	11¾	+½	16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	179¼	+3¾	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy	225½	+10½	243¼	151¼
Shell	2732½	+35½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	21¼	-¼	25¼	18
Tullow Oil	8	+1	21½	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting	440½	+1	449½	246½
John Wood Group	26		72½	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group	1115	-55	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	71¼	-½	88¼	66
Unilever	4815½	-49	6177½	4631
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	13508	-372	14346	9667
Genus	3035	+65	3035	1548
GlaxoSmithKline	1817½	-45	1901½	1264
Haleon	372½	-4	415¼	326½
Hikma	1533	-12	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold	3½			
Oxford Biomedica	855	-14	913	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	218	-2	237	196
Cardiff Property	2700#		2700	2540
CLS Holdings	60½		75	53½
Foxtons	53	-½	67¾	50¾
Harworth Group	162½	-1½	189½	159½
Mountview Est.	9025		10200	8700
Panther Secs.	290		315	270
Rightmove	507¼	-¼	823¾	494½
Savills	1072	-4	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	860		875	695
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1044	-4	1180	848
British Land	415½	+5½	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	145	+4¼	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1946	+9	2096	1608
Grainger	190#	+¼	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	367	+10	368½	262
Hammerson	354¾	+4¾	354¾	220½
Helical Bar	194½	+½	240	174
Land Securities	653½	+5½	659	499½
London & Stamford Prop	201¼	+1	204½	170½
Primary Health.	106	+¾	106¼	87½
SEGRO	760	+8½	763½	599
Town Centre	120½	-9½	149	117
Unite Group	575	+9	879½	510
Value & Income	198#	-8	215	173
Workspace Group	422#	+9	473½	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter	3288	-8	3368	2122
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	280		344	255
Moneysupermarket	186¼	-¾	221½	180½
Pendragon	380	+18	558	296
RELX	2692	-28	4135	2672½
Sage Group	995½#	+5¾	1348	988½
Triad Group	291		400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	5112#	+78	5594	3659
Capita Group	388	-2	407½	175
DCC	4662	+82	5600	4350
Diploma	5405#	-85	5685	3624
Essentra	104¼	+¼	126¼	89¾
Experian Group	2719#	-66	4088	2719
Ferguson	18140#	-130	19470	11670
Hays	46½	+¼	88¼	45
Intertek Group	4492	+10	5385	4064
Johnson Service	141¼	-¾	159½	124
London Security	2850		3800	2750
Macfarlane Group	72		120½	62¾
Mears Group.	372	+20½	417½	311½
Michael Page	204¼	+5¾	341¼	193
Mitie Group	167½#	-3½	172¼	112
Norish.	23½	+½	24	14
Paypoint	575	+74	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	465¾	-11½	480¾	309½
Robert Walters	126	-½	306	116
RS Group.	659	+8½	667½	487¼
Serco Group	305¼	+2½	305¼	150½
SIG	9½	-¼	18	8½
Smiths News	67#	+½	77½	47½
Speedy Hire	25	-½	32¼	18
SThree	191	-1¼	280½	137½
Travis Perkins	648½	-5½	714	494
Trifast	77	-½	87½	59
Vitec Group	12	-½	125	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	15½		19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4332#	-6	4421	2965
Imperial Brands	3028	+7	3312	2662
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	25½	+¾	73¾	21
Carnival	2069	+7	2406	1134
Celtic	200		210	142½
Compass Group	2198#	+17	2843	2167
Domino's Pizza	187¼	+2	302¾	167¼
EasyJet	475¾	+5	587¾	427½
Entain	637½	-11	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	12175	-230	23630	12125
Fuller Smith & Turner	690	-20	738	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	9709¼	-163¼	10068½	5389¼
Intl Consolidated Airlines	418	+1½	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts	560		575	380
Marston's	59¾	-9¼	69	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	265	-3	291½	208½
National Express	24	+3	75	21
Rank Group	91	+2	160½	78
Saga	434	+7½	440½	114¼
Wetherspoon (JD)	680½	+1½	804	541
Whitbread	2749	-31	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	237½		395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	880	+7½	1100	837½
Boohoo	25	+1¼	29¼	10½
Camellia	4880		6050	4090
Churchill China	393	+3	710	324
CML Microsystems.	265	+3	335	210
Colefax Group	1165	+160	1180	750
CPP Group	74¾	+¼	162	60
Cropper (James)	380	+10	400	132½
Falkland Islands	245#	+5	316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	894	+4	998	654
Filtronic	185	-7	196	82½
James Halstead	137½	+1½	175	133
Mothercare	2		4¼	1¾
Mpac Group	372½	-7½	565	270
Naked Wine	71½	-2½	93½	43
Nichols.	986	-39	1465	930
Northamber	31#		34	26¼
Portmeirion	99		189	94
Regal Petroleum	17		23½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	71	-1½	87¾	33¼
Ten Alps	47½		73	46½
Titon Holdings	95		100	69
Volex	447	-10	470	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A.	848	-2	992	714

The service is provided for general information only and is not intended to address individual requirements. Appropriate independent advice should be obtained before making investment decisions. Reasonable care will be taken in ensuring the accuracy of the information provided but it may include errors, omissions or inaccuracies.

Ex-dividend * Ex-rights a Ex-All c Ex-capitalisation † Shares suspended

Webfinancial Group

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM
THE PLANNING ACT 2008 AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017
NOTICE OF A DECISION ON AN APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR EIA DEVELOPMENT

The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, ("the Secretary of State") gives notice under regulation 31(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("the 2017 Regulations") that a determination has been made on an application made by Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Limited ("the Applicant") for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act") for development that constitutes "Environment Impact Assessment development" as defined in the 2017 Regulations.

The application is for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of an offshore wind farm in the southern North Sea off the coast of Essex and Suffolk including up to 79 turbines within two array areas and a generating capacity of more than 100MW. It would include offshore substation platforms, onshore and offshore cabling, construction of one onshore substation and enabling works for the provision of a second substation, works to facilitate a connection to a new National Grid substation and associated development.

The Secretary of State has decided, following consideration of the report of the Examining Authority who conducted an examination into the application, that development consent should be **granted** for the proposed development.

The statement of reasons for deciding to make an Order granting development consent, which has been prepared by the Secretary of State under section 116 of the 2008 Act, and regulation 31(2) of the 2017 Regulations, containing the content of the decision, the requirements imposed in connection with the development, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision is based including relevant information about the participation of the public, a description of the main features to avoid, reduce and offset any major adverse effects of the development, is published on the Planning Inspectorate's website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010115

The statement of reasons contains the information required by regulation 30(2) of the 2017 Regulations including information regarding the right to challenge the decision and the procedures for doing so.

Hard copies of the decision documentation will also be available to inspect at the Planning Inspectorate's offices (by appointment using the contact details below):

The Planning Inspectorate, National Infrastructure Directorate, c/o QUADIENT, 69 Buckingham Avenue, Slough SL1 4PN.

To make an appointment for inspection of the documents contact the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000 or email NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Copies of the Secretary of State's decision letter and the text of the Order can be obtained by writing or sending an e-mail to the Planning Inspectorate. No charge will be made for this service.

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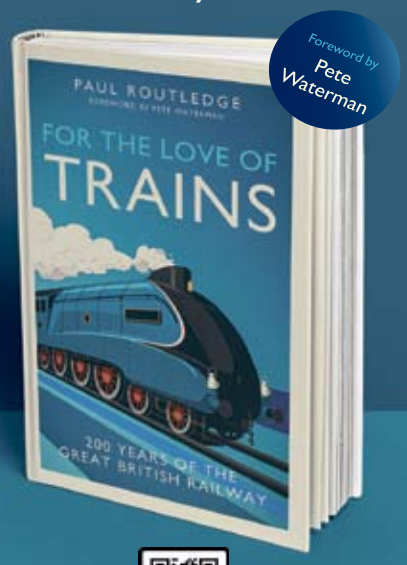

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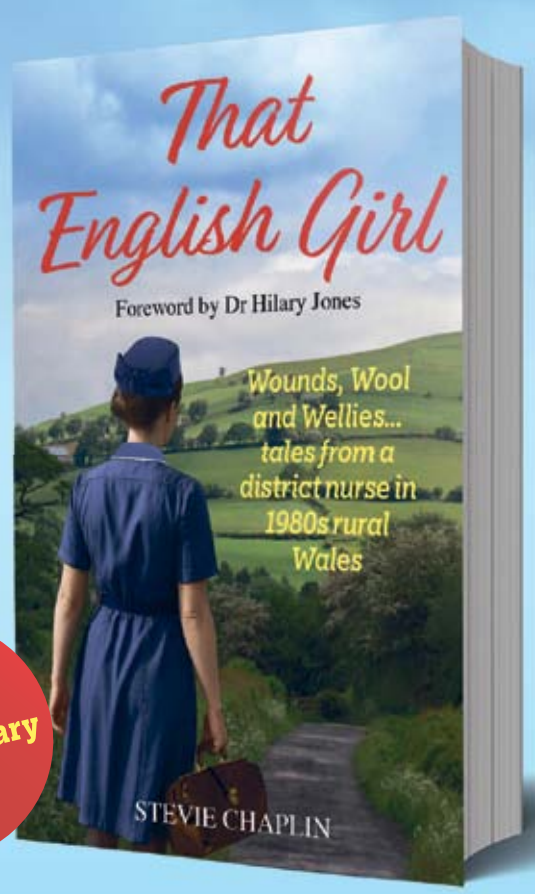
That English Girl
Foreword by Dr Hilary Jones
Wounds, Wool and Wellies... tales from a district nurse in 1980s rural Wales
STEVIE CHAPLIN

Foreword by ITV's Dr Hilary Jones

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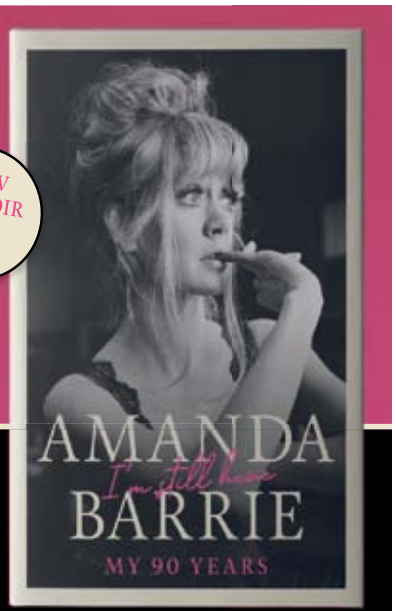

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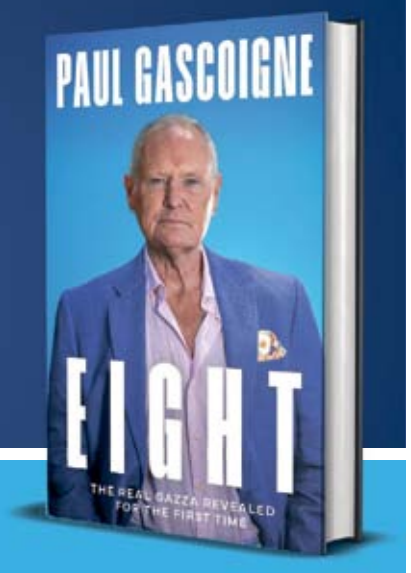

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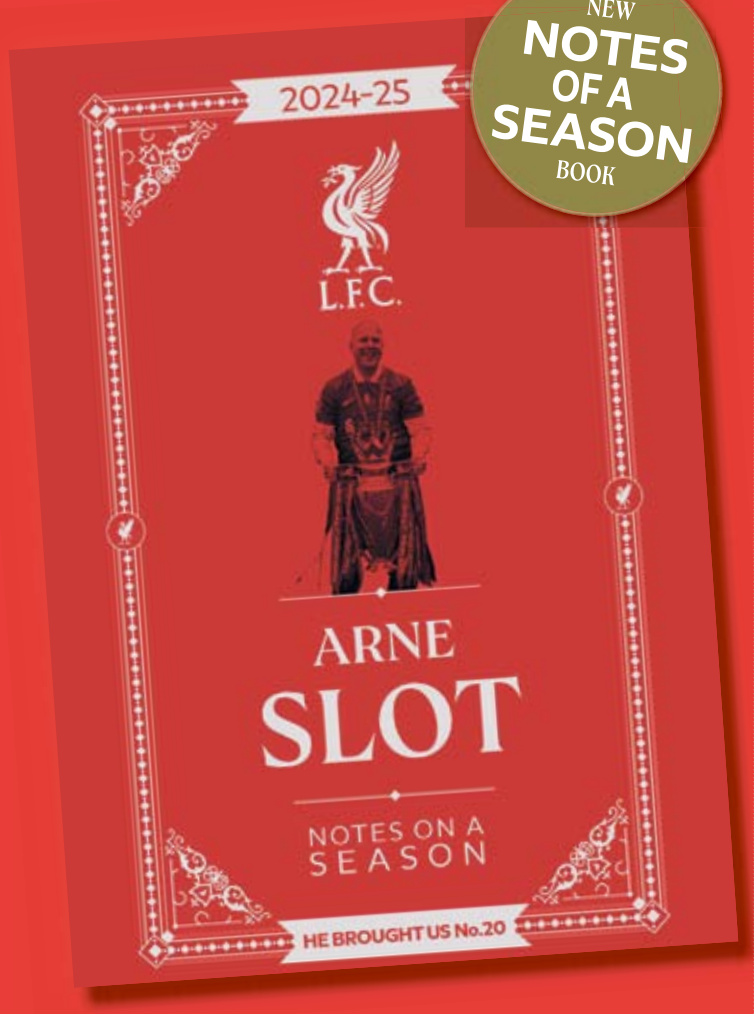

THE STORY OF THE 24/25 SEASON IN THE DUTCHMAN'S OWN WORDS

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Racing

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The Dublin Festival gets the all-clear

By **David Yates**

THE Dublin Racing Festival will go ahead this weekend despite the best efforts of Storm Chandra, which left parts of Leopardstown waterlogged on Tuesday.

The Foxrock track was clear of standing water yesterday morning and Leopardstown's head of racing Peter Roe, right, reported: "We're in a much better position than we were 24 hours ago.

"We had lakes at our lowest point but due to great work by our on-track team – and every pump we could find – all the surface water has gone this morning. It's all systems go for a very successful DRF this weekend.

"This time last year, we were watering for this fixture – we were putting it on last year and we're taking it off this year!

"It will be real National Hunt ground, but it will be lovely – they are not going to go deep."

Groundstaff will inspect Sandown's hurdles track at 8am today with a standby plan to stage an all-chase card on Saturday.

NICKY COMES TO SACRE AID

Henderson to pay for star chaser's vet bill

By **David Yates**

NICKY HENDERSON has stepped in to cover the veterinary bills for Sprinter Sacre after "confusion" arose over who would pay for the dual Queen Mother Champion Chase hero's "minor procedure".

Now 20 years old, Sprinter Sacre has been in the care of Gloucestershire-based Vicki Roberts since his retirement.

A social media storm erupted on Tuesday evening after Roberts launched a GoFundMe page to raise £5,000 for treatment after Sprinter Sacre, who won 18 races and over £1.13million in prize money in the colours of former owner Caroline Mould, suffered an accident at home.

To diffuse a public row as to who should foot the bill for the veterinary care, the Seven Barrows trainer said: "It would appear there has been some confusion last night and this morning over a GoFundMe page set up for Sprinter Sacre.

"The GoFundMe page was set up entirely independently of Seven Barrows and without Caroline Mould's or our knowledge."

Henderson, left, whose 2023 Champion Hurdle winner Constitution Hill continued the build-up to his Flat debut at Southwell on February 20 with a stalls test in Lambourn yesterday, added: "Sprinter is currently with a Seven Barrows vet at Donnington Veterinary Surgery, where he will undergo a minor procedure, funded entirely by Seven Barrows.

"This was always the plan from the moment I was made aware of the issue and we will continue to monitor the situation moving forward.

"Thankfully Sprinter is absolutely fine and will return to his Gloucestershire home tomorrow."

The £3,822 raised has now been returned to the GoFundMe page's donors.

ON THE MEND: Sprinter Sacre will return home today

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THE SCOUT

1.33 Coolanna	3.33 Jupiter Allen
2.03 Carrigmoorna Rowan	4.03 Mr Glass
2.33 Aguellid	4.33 Secret Des Lune
3.03 Watchoutitscookie	

1.33 EBF MARES' 'NAT HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE
£5,991 (Class 4) 2m 5f 82yds (11 declared)

1	22-1	●	**COOLANNA (41)** K Bailey & M Nicholls 6 11-9	**T Bellamy ★119**
2	2316-31		**STRONG RUN (46)** F O'Brien 7 11-9	**J J Burke 114**
3	443-LF		**BALLYNORTH (29)** B Pauling 6 11-3	**B R Jones 90**
4	L2		**BUNNY BEE (18)** Miss H Knight 5 11-3	**A Stevens(3) 105**
5	52-L		**DALCASSIAN GIRL (85)** C Honour 6 11-3	**B Carver –**
6	1-2125		**KATIE'S MELODY (29)** Harry Derham 6 11-3	**Paul O'Brien 108**
7	P-FLL		**MISS JAFFA CAKE (236)** P Gundry 6 11-3	**B Poste 24**
8	8-P		**MOONLIGHT STRIDE (20)** P Hobbs & J White 6 11-3	**Sean Houlihan –**
9	7-1		**POET'S MUSE (269)** I Chanin 5 11-3	**L Williams –**
10	37U		**SVELTE SILHOUETTE (18)** Seamus Mullins 5 11-3	**D Sansom(3) –**
11	3-L6		**WASSAILING ALONG (18)** J Tizzard 6 11-3	**B J Powell 91**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2.

SP FORECAST: 6-5 Coolanna, 15-8 Strong Run, 7 Katie's Melody, 14 Bunny Bee, 16 Ballynorth, 20 Poet's Muse, Svelte Silhouette, Wassailing Along, 66 Others.
2025: Bobbi With An I 6-11-3, Brendan Powell 11-8 Fav (J Tizzard), 8 ran.

2.03 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)
£5,281 (4) 2m 4f 35yds (7)

1	P-71743		**WINDSURFER (39)** B Case 7 12-0	**J Quinlan 98**
2	067/29-		**THE BLUEBERRY ONE (331)** Harry Derham 7 11-12	**Paul O'Brien –**
3	L6-P244	●	**CARRIGMOORNA ROWAN (9)** R Potter 9 11-10	**J M Davies ★110**
4	32L11U		**ATREIDES (34) (D)** N Mulholland 8 11-10	**B Harris(3) 108**
5	363120		**THANKYOUANDPLEASE (34)** S Hosie 6 11-9	**R Dingle –**
6	393P/3-8		**ITALIAN SPIRIT (60)** H Dickin 10 11-8	**J Best –**
7	343-71L		**MUTLEY CREW (34)** R Walford 10 10-11	**H Kimber 109**

VISOR: No. 4
TONGUE STRAP: No. 4
CHEEK PIECES: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Mutley Crew, 5-2 Atreides, 11-2 Carrigmoorna Rowan, 7 Windsurfer, The Blueberry One, 10 Thankyouandplease, 16 Italian Spirit.
2025: Filanderer 9-11-1, Jonathan Burke 10-3 Fav (H Morrison), 6 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Heavy. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Harry Cobden 31% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** P Nicholls 26% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 2.03 Italian Spirit (cheek pieces), 2.33 Lord Chamberlain (tongue strap), 4.03 Illico De Cotte (tongue strap), 4.33 Sparkling Water (hood).

2.33 ITM MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£5,446 (4) 1m 7f 50yds (18)

1	4-32	●	**AGUELLID (17)** P Hobbs & J White 5 11-6	**Sean Houlihan 119**
2	6		**ANTHRACITE (21)** N Mulholland 5 11-6	**J Best 50**
3	P64L33		**BRIGHT LEGEND (21)** Faye Bramley 6 11-6	**Isabelle Ryder(5) 128**
4	L		**FOREST HILLS (21)** C J Gray 5 11-6	**J M Davies 44**
5	32-87		**FOR OLD TIMES SAKE (18)** N Mulholland 5 11-6	**C O'Farrell 95**
6	5		**GALASHIELS (33)** N Henderson 7 11-6	**N De Boinville 89**
7	8-777		**HARBOUR LIGHT (17)** N & W Twiston-Davies 5 11-6	**T McCain-Mitchell(5) 97**
8			**LORD CHAMBERLAIN (F549)** Dominic Elsworth 5 11-6	**R T Dunne –**
9	05		**MARHABA MILLION (21)** S Hosie 5 11-6	**R Dingle 71**
10	1-		**MOSSY FEN COOLIO (354)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-6	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr –**
11	PF2-P9		**RICHFORADAAY (14)** I Chanin 6 11-6	**C Gethings 79**
12	F-656		**STONE COLD (33)** M Sheppard 5 11-6	**S Sheppard 87**
13	P-P68L5		**TOBI KANOBEE (14)** Claire Hitch 7 11-6	**B Godfrey 95**
14	6		**VIVA VINCENTE (54)** E Williams 5 11-6	**C Ring –**
15	2-P6		**GALACTIC PRINCESS (21)** Daisy Hitchins 5 10-13	**R David(7) 65**
16	L/L-PL		**MISTRESS FOX (18)** N Mulholland 6 10-13	**B Harris(3) 46**
17	1-5		**SPRING SERENADE (21)** K Bishop 7 10-13	**L Scott(3) 75**
18	222		**POURQUOI PAS PAPA (20)** P Nicholls 4 10-7	**H Cobden ★135**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 8, 9, 16 HOOD: Nos. 1, 15, 16.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Pourquoi Pas Papa, 15-8 Aguellid, 9-2 Bright Legend, 13-2 Mossy Fen Coolio, 8 Galashiels, 20 Harbour Light, Viva Vincente, 50 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

3.03 HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,489 (5) 2m 3f 179yds (14)

1	954L		**RIBBA HILL (12)** S Hosie 5 12-0	**P Hanlon(5) 94**
2	R-12371		**BROOMFIELD GALE (21)** Daisy Hitchins 8 11-12	**R David(7) 100**
3	L0L-7		**TRACTOR JACK (73)** J Tizzard 6 11-7	**B J Powell 95**
4	8286-9L		**OURBROWNEYEDGIRL (42)** Mrs S Gardner 7 11-7	**Lucy Gardner 90**
5	L64-411		**BRADMAN (18)** K Bishop 5 11-4	**J Best 101**
6	3/70-P55		**BADENTAGGART (21)** J Scott 7 11-4	**L Williams 92**
7	1-6589		**LOCAL DERBY (29)** C Gordon 6 11-3	**F Gordon 97**
8	6561-PL		**WHATMAKES HONEY B (20)** H Brown 7 11-2	**C Bament(7) 99**
9	82-44L6		**DEVILSROLLTHEDICE (20)** Gordon Treacy 6 11-1	**R Corcoran(7) 96**
10	1-56225		**INCHAGOILL LADY (30)** K Pickard 10 10-11	**L Saunders(5) ★103**
11	L5L-LL7		**JOUR D'ORAGE (18)** N Mulholland 7 10-10	**C O'Farrell 99**
12	0-2LL20	●	**WATCHOUTITSCOOKIE (12) (C&D)** N Hawke 8 10-6	**J M Davies 98**
13	0L8-		**GORCOMBE AND WISE (285)** R Walford 6 10-4	**H Kimber 82**
14	76-08PP		**STOPHERANDGO (14) (C)** K Pickard 9 10-2	**B Poste 86**

BLINKERS: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 8, 10, 14
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 10, 11, 14.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Broomfield Gale, 4 Bradman, 7 Inchagoill Lady, 8 Watchoutitscookie, 12 Tractor Jack, 14 Badentaggart, 16 Ourbrowneyedgirl, Gorcombe And Wise, 20 Others.
2025: Gentleman Jacques 6-11-12, Harry Cobden 2-1 Fav (E Lavelle), 15 ran.
BEATEN FAVOURITES: 1.33 Katie's Melody. 2.33 Lord Chamberlain(hcp). 4.03 Illico De Cotte. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Dreamfyre Dancer** (4.33) 126 miles.

3.33 DICK HUNT HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)
£13,202 (3) 3m 1f 30yds (6)

1	651-2P6		**LARGY POET (34)** P Nicholls 7 12-1	**F Keighley(7) 138**
2	2IP8-29		**COLLECTORS ITEM (33) (C)** J & A O'Neill 9 12-1	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr 136**
3	PP1/3PP-		**TAKE YOUR TIME (314) (C&D)** P Nicholls 11 11-0	**H Cobden –**
4	P1L-423	●	**JUPITER ALLEN (34)** Chester Williams 7 11-0	**L Williams 136**
5	U/25P-25		**PIMLICO POINT (93)** Kerry Lee 9 10-13	**C O'Farrell 139**
6	P4-432P		**MY SILVER LINING (10) (C&D,F)** E Lavelle 10 10-13	**J Best ★141**

BLINKERS: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Collectors Item, 5-2 Jupiter Allen, 5 My Silver Lining, 6 Take Your Time, Largy Poet, 10 Pimlico Point.
2025: Pedley Wood 8-10-5, Brendan Powell 15-8 Fav (J Tizzard), 6 ran.

4.03 MEMORIAL OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE
£3,229 (5) 3m 1f 30yds (6)

1	P4447-P		**THUNDER ROCK (62)** O Murphy 10 12-6	**Mr J King –**
2	326P-22		**ILLICO DE COTTE (67)** W Biddick 8 12-2	**Mr F Philipson-Stow(7) 96**
3	L211/1P-	●	**MR GLASS (350) (C&D)** P Nicholls 10 12-2	**Mr Lucas Murphy(7) ★119**
4	213/31P-		**PYLEIGH COURT (301)** R Pudd 11 12-0	**Miss E Herbison(7) 111**
5	LP1/2P-1		**GO SACRE GO (74)** R Walford 10 11-12	**Mr Paddy Barlow(3) 118**
6	53/4P-F1		**MINELLA JAB (18)** Miss M Lawrence 9 11-12	**Mr J Bament(7) –**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3.

SP FORECAST: 10-11 Thunder Rock, 6 Illico De Cotte, Mr Glass, Go Sacre Go, 10 Pyleigh Court, 12 Minella Jab.
2025: Mr Glass 9-11-12, Mr William Biddick 4-9 Fav (W Biddick), 6 ran.

4.33 ITM MARES' OPEN MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE
£2,112 (5) 1m 7f 50yds (10)

1	L-0		**DREAMFYRE DANCER (55)** A Ralph 5 11-2	**C Gethings 71**
2			**HOTTER THAN DUBAI** C Honour 5 11-2	**B Carver –**
3	53		**MIDNIGHT DOYEN (29)** J Scott 6 11-2	**L Williams 102**
4			**PINK PERJURY** P Gundry 5 11-2	**B Poste –**
5	0		**ROB'S SPIRIT (69)** Nick Scholfield 5 11-2	**Mr E Edge(7) 50**
6			**SAFFRON BELLE** Mrs S Gardner 5 11-2	**Lucy Gardner –**
7	2	●	**SECRET DES LUNE (45)** Ben Clarke 5 11-2	**R Dingle ★107**
8	FU-P		**SPARKLING WATER (270)** R Beckett 5 11-2	**S Sheppard –**
9			**THAT IS BLUE** Miss H Knight 5 11-2	**B J Powell –**
10	6		**WESTERN CHARM (45)** A Honeyball 5 11-2	**B Godfrey 94**

HOOD: No. 8.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Secret Des Lune, 2 Sparkling Water, 13-2 That Is Blue, 7 Midnight Doyen, 8 Western Charm, 25 Others.
2025: There Runs Mary 5-11-2, Sean Bowen Evens Fav (O Murphy), 8 ran.

STABLE SWITCH: 1.33 **Poet's Muse** from R Chanin to I Chanin. 2.33 **Lord Chamberlain** from D M Simcock to Dominic Elsworth, **Mossy Fen Coolio** from Eamonn M Doyle to J & A O'Neill. 4.03 **Go Sacre Go** from R & S Alner to R Walford, **Mr Glass** from W Biddick to P Nicholls. 4.33 **Dreamfyre Dancer** from H Brown to A Ralph, **Sparkling Water** from J Fogarty in Ireland to R Beckett.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AND PRICES

KEMPTON: Standard to slow

5.30—BIG BARD (Miss Ella Smart-Jones, 17-2) 1; Portoro (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Southbank (11-8 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ½l, hd. (G & J Moore). Tote: £10.50; pl £2.70, £1.40, £1.20. exacta: £43.80. tricast: £57.37. trifecta: £109.20. CSF: £35.18. Non-runner: Pinjarra.

6.00—HAMALEEL (H Doyle, 17-2) 1; Aneirin's Sword (7-4 fav) 2; Ebn Sabt (9-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ¾l, 2½l. (A Watson). Tote: £9.50; pl £3.40, £1.70. exacta: £28.80. tricast: £77.18. trifecta: £104.30. CSF: £24.07. Non-runner: Fans Favourite.

6.30—MBAPPE (B Loughnane, 11-10 fav) 1; Rising Force (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Berning Hot (33-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ½l, 1¼l. (M Loughnane). Tote: £2.10; pl £1.20, £1.40, £6.70. exacta: £6.00. tricast: £79.20. trifecta: £113.90. CSF: £4.97. Non-runner: Eye Of The Water.

7.00—PALLADAS (C Planas, 6-5 fav) 1; Al Azd (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Shafdar (20-1) 3. 12 ran. 2¾l, 2l. (C Appleby). Tote: £2.20; pl £1.30, £1.40, £4.80. exacta: £5.60. trifecta: £58.30. CSF: £4.14. Non-runner: Where's The Picnic.

7.30—SEEING STARS (L Morris, 11-8 fav) 1; Show Me Gold (12-1) 2; Blue Celestial (18-1) 3. 13 ran. 1¼l, nk. (W Knight). Tote: £2.38; pl £1.30, £2.90, £3.90. exacta: £18.10. trifecta: £174.90. CSF: £21.28.

8.00—HOLY FIRE (C Shepherd, 13-2) 1; Summer Heat (11-4 jt fav) 2; Exposay (11-4 jt fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 1¾l, 2¼l. (C Fellowes). Tote: £8.20; pl £3.30, £1.90. exacta: £33.60. trifecta: £106.30. CSF: £24.39.

8.30—WHITCOMBE ROCKSTAR (T Heard, 10-1) 1; Beylerbeyi (85-40 fav) 2; Paradias (5-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. hd, shd. (Kieran Burke). Tote: £12.20; pl £3.10, £1.30, £1.50. exacta: £48.40. tricast: £73.05. trifecta: £180.30. CSF: £32.46.

Jackpot: £5,788.30
Placepot: £9.10
(Race 1) 1, 2, 5; (2) 4, 5; (3) 3, 1, 2; (4) 10, 6, 3; (5) 12, 13, 8; (6) 6, 4;
Quadpot: £3.20

DUNDALK: Standard

2.32—PASS ME IF YOU CAN (W M Lordan, 11-2) 1; Dusty Rock (12-1) 2; This Guy (2-1 2nd fav) 3. 13 ran. 2¾l, 1¾l. (N Lupini; 11-8 fav Spring Is Here). Tote: €6.50; pl €1.60, €3.40, €1.10. exacta: €43.90. trifecta: €182.00. CSF: €66.84.

3.02—INISHMOT PRINCE (J J Ryan, 7-1) 1; Mehman (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Plushy (15-2) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 1¼l, ½l. (T G McCourt; 5-2 fav I'm Spartacus). Tote: €8.70; pl €2.30, €1.50, €2.40. exacta: €43.70. tricast: €231.73. trifecta: €179.80. CSF: €36.45. Non-runners: Salacious, Sovereign Banter.

3.32—THALORIA (W M Lordan, 40-1) 1; Desert Of The Sea (18-1) 2; Alex Belardo (20-1) 3. H'cap 14 ran. 1¾l, nk. (N Lupini; 9-4 fav Mount Ruapehu). Tote: €68.00; pl €15.30, €5.20, €5.00. exacta: €1038.80. tricast: €7406.17. trifecta: Not won. CSF: €658.28. Non-runners: Gobi Star, Jazzy Dancer, Ukiyo.

4.02—EXQUISITE ACCLAIM (Adam Caffrey, 6-1) 1; Brewing (5-1) 2; Little Empire (2-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. ¾l, nk. (A McGuinness; 7-4 fav Inishfallen). Tote: €7.00; pl €1.60, €1.70, €1.10. exacta: €41.30. tricast: €81.87. trifecta: €113.90. CSF: €35.77.

4.32—PORTER (D McDonogh, 4-1 jt 2nd fav) 1; Arrietty (11-8 fav) 2; Divelment (9-1) 3. 14 ran. ½l, 3¼l. (J P O'Brien). Tote: €5.40; pl €1.60, €1.10, €3.20. exacta: €15.10. trifecta: €69.60. CSF: €9.99. Non-runner: Merciless.

5.02—NOWSHESDANCING (G M Ryan, 18-1) 1; Tyraxes (13-8 fav) 2; Anchors Away (200-1) 3. 8 ran. nk, 2¾l. (M Fahey). Tote: €19.00; pl €5.80, €1.10, €16.90. exacta: €121.70. trifecta: €2478.20. CSF: €49.34.

5.37—THE REAL SCREAMER (J J Ryan, 2-1 2nd fav) 1; Trishuli River (7-1) 2; Beauparc (12-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 3l, ½l. (P W Flynn; 15-8 fav Cinammon Coco). Tote: €3.00; pl €1.50, €3.70. exacta: €14.40. trifecta: €88.80. CSF: €16.49.

Placepot: €775.80
(Race 1) 7, 10, 9; (2) 7, 15, 13; (3) 2, 14, 3; (4) 4, 7, 5; (5) 3, 8, 1; (6) 8, 6, 3.

AYR RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

1.13 Coolkatie
1.43 Diamond Geezer
2.13 Wendigo
2.43 Stede Bonnet
3.13 Buzz Iceclear
3.43 Ballyfort
4.13 The Skecher

1.13 CORAL'S FREE MARES' 'NAT HUNT' MAIDEN HURDLE
£5,281 (Class 4) 2m (9 declared)

1 4-0L **AM I BOVVERED (59)** S Forster 6 11-4 — P W Wadge –
2 43-2075 **APPLES JANE (21)** G Elliott (IRE) 5 11-4 — S Bowen ★109
3 5L8 **BERWICK LAW (14)** I Jardine 5 11-4 — D McMenamin 80
4 888 **CHANGEMYLUCK (31)** W Coltherd 6 11-4 — Doubtful
5 4F ● **COOLKATIE (29) (T)** D Skelton 6 11-4 — H Skelton 96
6 22-46 **KLASSY PEARL (12) (T)** C Boultbee-Brooks 6 11-4 — R Patrick 105
7 12-18 **ROYAL MAGGS (14) (T)** M Walford 6 11-4 — J Hamilton –
8 12/ **SAGONIGE (664) (T)** Ruth Jefferson 7 11-4 — B Hughes –
9 3/5- **SOCIETY SOLDIER (460)** L Russell & M Scudamore 6 11-4 — D R Fox –

HOOD: Nos. 1, 3, 7.

SP FORECAST: 4-5 Coolkatie, 15-8 Apples Jane, 8 Sagonige, 12 Klassy Pearl, 25 Society Soldier, 33 Royal Maggs, 66 Berwick Law, 200 Am I Bovvered.
2025: That'll Do Moss 6-11-4, Jonathan Burke 5-2 (F O'Brien), 8 ran.

1.43 CORAL DAILY REWARDS SHAKER HANDICAP HURDLE
£5,281 (4) 2m 4f 100yds (13)

1 3/1P3-2 **SARACEN BEAU (94) (C)** N Richards 7 12-0 — D McMenamin 107
2 61L11/5 **ONE MILL HARBOUR (59)** J Moffatt 9 11-4 — Charlotte Jones 108
3 0/F3-U55 **ELOI DU PUY (31)** N Alexander 8 11-3 — B Lynn 123
4 1L61L4 **FOLLOW CHARLIE (27) (C&D)** R M Smith 7 11-2 — Ben Smith(7) 118
5 40-2235 **KOOL RAOUL (28)** L Russell & M Scudamore 6 11-1 — G Walkingshaw(10) 119
6 4-243L4 **WOLFSPEAR (28) (D)** D Bourke 10 11-1 — C Bewley ★124
7 62-2134 ● **DIAMOND GEEZER (39) (D) (T)** O Murphy 7 11-0 — S Bowen 122
8 32/P-666 **COCONUT SPLASH (27)** N Alexander 11 11-0 — Mr K Alexander(5) 113
9 45-2675 **ROCK DJ (75) (T)** M Walford 6 10-13 — J Hamilton 116
10 125/6-5U **LANGDALE LANE (59) (C&D)** R M Smith 9 10-13 — G Sheehan 112
11 LL0-323 **EL JEFE (5)** A B Hamilton 9 10-13 — C Rabbitt(3) 117
12 337415 **FOSTERED PHIL (27) (D)** W Young Jnr 12 10-11 — D R Fox 120
13 L-25795 **JAKANA (62) (D)** L Kerr 7 10-5 — B Hughes 116

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 11, 12 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 13 HOOD: No. 11.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 8, 7, 11, 3, 4, 12, 13, 2, 6.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Saracen Beau, 5 Diamond Geezer, 8 El Jefe, 10 One Mill Harbour, 12 Coconut Splash, Fostered Phil, Kool Raoul, Rock Dj, Follow Charlie, 14 Others.
2025: Timmy Tuesday 7-12-0, Sam Ewing 3-1 Fav (G Elliott), 7 ran.

2.13 JOIN CORAL 'CHASING EXCELLENCE' NOVICES' CHASE
£7,922 (3) 3m 20yds (3)

1 215-213 ● **WENDIGO (34) (F) (T)** J Snowden 7 11-10 — G Sheehan ★154
2 2433/2P- **DONNY BOY (425)** N Alexander 10 11-4 — B Lynn –
3 312/P-2L **MAXIMILIAN (31)** D McCain 10 11-4 — B Hughes 147

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 3, 1.

SP FORECAST: 2-9 Wendigo, 7-2 Maximilian, 25 Donny Boy.
2025: No corresponding race.

2.43 CORAL NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£5,446 (4) 2m (9)

1 43-121 **CAVALIER DU LUY (31) (D)** N Alexander 5 11-12 — B Lynn 111
2 2/1 **IRANDANDO HAS (46) (D) (T)** S Allwood 7 11-12 — T Wynne 103
3 2-211 **LE BEAU MADRIK (2) (T)** D Skelton 5 11-12 — Doubtful
4 15-631 **SANILAM (27) (C&D)** A M Thomson 6 11-12 — B Hughes 113
5 211621 ● **STEDE BONNET (28)** G Elliott (IRE) 5 11-12 — S Bowen ★129
6 6LFL **BELVEDERE BHOY (16)** L Russell & M Scudamore 5 11-5 — D R Fox 80
7 14 **IRISH CHAMP (31)** S Crawford (IRE) 6 11-5 — J J Slevin 121
8 PP **RUN BABY RUN (78)** R M Smith 5 11-5 — Ben Smith(7) –
9 5B10 **VALTTERI ITS JAMES (14)** L Russell & M Scudamore 5 11-5 — P W Wadge –

TONGUE STRAP: No. 7
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 8.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 4, 5.

SP FORECAST: 11-10 Stede Bonnet, 5 Sanilam, Irish Champ, 11-2 Cavalier Du Luy, 6 Irandando Has, 20 Valtteri Its James, 100 Belvedere Bhoy, 200 Run Baby Run.
2025: Jet To Vegas 6-11-2, Craig Nichol 7-4 (L Russell), 9 ran.

3.13 CORAL RACING CLUB 'JOIN FOR FREE' HCAP HURDLE
£5,281 (4) 3m 70yds (13)

1 LD14-LL **FELICIE DU MAQUIS (54) (D) (T)** C Boultbee-Brooks 11 12-1 — R Patrick 122
2 2F-6P64 **ROCHEVAL (46) (C)** L Russell & M Scudamore 6 11-10 — P W Wadge 119
3 333P-4L **PRESIDENT SCOTTIE (53) (C,D)** N Richards 8 11-10 — D McMenamin –
4 2/213-3L **CARISMATIC SOLDIER (51) (T)** O Murphy 7 11-8 — S Bowen 121
5 367-113 ● **BUZZ ICECLEAR (40) (C&D,F) (T)** M Walford 6 11-5 — J Hamilton 120
6 423-F44 **FOX'S FANCY (53)** L Russell & M Scudamore 8 11-5 — D R Fox 119
7 P8P-9P7 **GAILLIMH A STOR (27) (C)** N Alexander 10 11-3 — D Hislop(10) 105
8 L/956-75 **THEME TUNE (57) (D)** N Alexander 11 11-0 — B Lynn ★124
9 P52-024 **CANUNCLECANI (27)** Mrs J Stephen 7 10-13 — Sean Quinlan 119
10 L-832F1 **SHOESHINE BOY (16) (C&D)** D Whillans 10 10-8 — Craig Nichol 119
11 3LL-3L1 **ADVERAM (50) (C)** I Duncan 7 10-7 — C Bewley 121
12 1-45P8L **GRAND VOYAGE (59)** W Coltherd 10 10-2 — J Thompson(5) 111
13 6P3-PLL **PURE SIRLOIN (31)** S Forster 8 10-2 — H Reed 116

VISOR: Nos. 7, 13 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 7, 10, 12
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 11, 5, 4, 1, 6, 7, 12, 3, 13, 2, 10, 8.

SP FORECAST: 3 Buzz Iceclear, 11-2 Adveram, 6 President Scottie, Carismatic Soldier, 13-2 Shoeshine Boy, 10 Felicie Du Maquis, 12 Rocheval, Fox's Fancy, 14 Others.
2025: Chasingoutttheblues 6-11-9, Jamie Hamilton 9-2 (M Walford), 9 ran.

3.43 CORAL HORSE RACING BET BUILDER HCAP CHASE
£5,281 (4) 2m 110yds (11)

1 3121-3L **COUP DE COEUR (55) (D)** M Hammond 8 12-0 — B Hughes 123
2 2P-38FL **NETYWELL (40) (C&D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 9 11-13 — P W Wadge ★126
3 PP/3-PU6 **GREAT PEPPER (27)** J Moffatt 8 11-13 — Charlotte Jones 119
4 642-L58 **KINBARA FIRSTDRAFT (34)** S Crawford (IRE) 7 11-9 — J J Slevin 96
5 232-225 **DISGUISEDLIMIT (29) (T)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 7 11-7 — Craig Nichol 120
6 53311P- **FLASH DU PISTOLET (297) (D)** W Coltherd 8 11-4 — Sean Quinlan 120
7 462-LL4 **WOTTER TROTTER (29) (T)** D Skelton 6 11-2 — H Skelton 111
8 149-131 ● **BALLYFORT (27) (C&D)** N Alexander 8 11-2 — B Lynn 118
9 3PF-5L2 **CARCACI CASTLE (38) (D)** A M Thomson 10 11-1 — J Hamilton 121
10 1242-2U **TOMMY COMBATS (14) (D)** M Todhunter 7 10-9 — C Bewley 122
11 2/P5-44L **CHUMLEE (31)** S Forster 11 10-2 — H Reed 121

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 8, 9
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 9
HOOD: Nos. 8, 11.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 8, 9, 11, 1, 3, 2, 10.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Ballyfort, 4 Carcaci Castle, 9-2 Tommy Combats, 7 Flash Du Pistolet, 10 Disguisedlimit, 12 Wotter Trotter, 14 Kinbara Firstdraft, Coup De Coeur, 16 Others.
2025: Lively Citizen 10-11-6, Jonathan Burke 11-2 (D J Jeffreys), 6 ran.

4.13 CORAL 'PIPPED-AT-THE-POST' PAYOUTS OPEN NH FLAT RACE (GBB RACE)
£2,451 (5) 2m (9)

1 2- **ALLFOR (305)** L Russell & M Scudamore 5 11-2 — Conner McCann(7) –
2 3 **BAY RUNNER (269)** Lizzie Quinlan 5 11-2 — Sean Quinlan –
3 5 **BLUE DU NEUF (34)** S Crawford (IRE) 6 11-2 — J J Slevin 102
4 3 **EL GANGSTER (60) (F)** D Whillans 5 11-2 — Craig Nichol 105
5 41 **FINISK PRIDE (102) (S)** L Russell & M Scudamore 5 11-2 — Jack Power(5) –
6 3 **KATAGAT (33) (T)** D Killahena & G McPherson 6 11-2 — S Bowen ★106
7 9 **L'APPEL DU LARGE (49)** N Alexander 5 11-2 — Doubtful
8 P-2 ● **THE SKECHER (109) (T)** D Skelton 5 11-2 — H Skelton –
9 1/ **MYFRIENDCOOPER (655)** Lucinda Hughes 6 10-9 — B Hughes –

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 6, 7, 9.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Finisk Pride, 4 The Skecher, 9-2 Katagat, 6 Blue Du Neuf, 8 El Gangster, 10 Myfriendcooper, 12 Allfor, 20 Bay Runner.
2025: They're Chancers 5-11-2, Danny McMenamin 13-2 (N Richards), 12 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Brian Hughes 13% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** I Jardine 12% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.13 Am I Bovvered (hood), Royal Maggs (hood), 1.43 Coconut Splash (cheek pieces), Eloi Du Puy (cheek pieces), 2.13 Maximilian (cheek pieces), 2.43 Run Baby Run (cheek pieces), Irish Champ (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 3.13 Felicie Du Maquis (wind surgery), Buzz Iceclear (cheek pieces), Carismatic Soldier (cheek pieces), 4.13 Katagat (tongue strap), Myfriendcooper (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.43 Diamond Geezer(hcp hdl). 2.13 Maximilian. 3.13 Carismatic Soldier(hcp hdl). 3.43 Flash Du Pistolet(hcp ch), Tommy Combats(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Apples Jane** (1.13), **Stede Bonnet** (2.43), **Irish Champ** (2.43), **Kinbara Firstdraft** (3.43), **Blue Du Neuf** (4.13) Ireland; **Wendigo** (2.13) 358 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.13 **Society Soldier** from N Alexander to L Russell & M Scudamore. 1.43 **Saracen Beau** from L Russell & M Scudamore to N Richards. 4.13 **Allfor** from Robert Tector to L Russell & M Scudamore, **Bay Runner** from S Doyle in Ireland to Lizzie Quinlan, **Finisk Pride** from D P Murphy in Ireland to L Russell & M Scudamore, **Myfriendcooper** from Robert Clancy in Ireland to Lucinda Hughes, **The Skecher** from Donnchadh Doyle in Ireland to D Skelton.

1.20 MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,140 (Class 6) 5f 6yds (10 declared)

1 (3) 6422-23 **THECOFFEEPODDOTCO (7) (F)** R Hannon 4 9-9 — J Leavy 72
2 (4) 24867-L **BANG ON THE BELL (27) (C&D)** J R Jenkins 7 9-9 — J Peate 71
3 (6) 08LL-76 **HONOUR YOUR DREAMS (7) (D)** M Attwater 6 9-9 — P Bradley 67
4 (5) 4154L-8 **HELLO LUNA (26) (D)** J Portman 4 9-7 — R Hornby 72
5 (8) 2741-44 **GUSTAV GRAVES (6) (D)** D Shaw 8 9-7 — G Wood 72
6 (1) 5737-34 **LEVEL UP (7) (C&D)** P Evans 7 9-6 — O Searle(5) ★74
7 (2) 242384- **COOLAGH MAGIC (167) (C&D)** A Carson 10 9-5 — W Carson 70
8 (10) 211L-57 **ALAFDHAL (2) (C&D)** P McEntee 8 9-4 — Doubtful
9 (7) 1425-35 ● **SON OF ASTAR (2) (D)** A Carroll 4 9-4 — Rossa Ryan 73
10 (9) L8966-5 **CAPTAIN KINSELLA (8) (D)** J Gallagher 4 9-1 — L Morris 72

BLINKERS: Nos. 6, 9 VISOR: Nos. 2, 4, 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 7
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 10.

SP FORECAST: 4 Son Of Astar, 9-2 Captain Kinsella, 5 Thecoffeepoddotco, Gustav Graves, 6 Level Up, 10 Hello Luna, Bang On The Bell, 12 Coolagh Magic, 14 Others.

1.50 BETMGM HANDICAP 3YO
£4,972 (4) 1m 1yds (6)

1 (6) 62-1 **SPACE INVASION (22) (C&D,F)** R Hannon 9-9 — J Leavy 80
2 (4) 3210-2 **TRY STORM CAT (15) (T)** C Johnston 9-7 — J Mitchell 83
3 (5) 35222-1 ● **SOVEREIGN WEALTH (23) (F)** G Boughey 9-6 — Rossa Ryan 83
4 (3) 7153I-6 **LUMINARE (28)** W Haggas 9-3 — C Fallon 80
5 (2) 5542-1 **MASKATTO (26) (C&D)** A Balding 8-11 — Jason Watson 84
6 (1) 555-22 **FOOTHOLD (8)** M Tregoning 8-10 — H Davies ★86

BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Sovereign Wealth, 3 Space Invasion, 7-2 Maskatto, 6 Foothold, 8 Try Storm Cat, Luminare.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Rossa Ryan 19% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** A Carroll 11% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.20 Coolagh Magic (wind surgery), Bang On The Bell (visor), 1.50 Try Storm Cat (cheek pieces), 2.50 Huntly Lodge (blinkers), 3.20 Penfolds Grange (wind surgery), 3.50 Saturday Again (hood), 4.20 Havana Joy (wind surgery). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.20 Son Of Astar(hcp). 1.50 Foothold. **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Try Storm Cat** (1.50) 270 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 3.50 **Sakura Spirit** from Raphael Freire to K P De Foy.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) S Crawford 62% (3 wins and 2 places from 8 runners), J Tate 60% (2/4/10), G Boughey 57% (3/1/7), S C Williams 57% (1/3/7), J R Jenkins 50% (1/1/4), Michael Keady 50% (1/1/4).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS Jack Mitchell 67% (1 wins and 3 places from 6 runners), Dylan Hogan 57% (4/4/14), Robert Havlin 55% (3/3/11), Harry Skelton 50% (10/1/22), J J Slevin 50% (3/3/12), Rob Hornby 50% (2/0/4), Sean Levey 50% (4/6/20), William Carson 50% (2/7/18).0

LINGFIELD SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

1.20 Son Of Astar
1.50 Sovereign Wealth
2.20 Celtic John
2.50 Vitaline
3.20 King's Hand
3.50 Seven Of Hearts
4.20 Porfin

2.20 BETMGM'S GOLDEN GOALS HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 1m 1yds (10)

1 (7) 9413-61 **POKE THE BEAR (5) (C&D)** Hayley Burton 4 9-13(5ex) — T Heard 59
2 (5) 7533-74 **VOLENDAM (17)** A Carroll 4 9-9 — Rossa Ryan 63
3 (10) 79486-5 **DION BAKER (21) (F)** M Wigham 7 9-9 — D Keenan ★65
4 (6) 0/5408-6 **RESILIENT LADY (26)** G Brown 4 9-9 — C Bishop 61
5 (4) 05282-1 ● **CELTIC JOHN (17) (C&D)** P Phelan 5 9-8 — P Bradley 60
6 (1) 656/423- **CHARLES MORIN (205)** P Phelan 5 9-8 — R Clutterbuck 59
7 (9) 6L699-7 **UNKNOWN JOURNEY (17)** A Carroll 4 9-3 — Jack Doughty 58
8 (8) 9L2-LL6 **WORLD OF DARCY (7)** J Ryan 5 9-3 — L Morris 62
9 (2) L8L498- **REEL POWER (52) (D)** P Butler 7 9-2 — Jason Watson 54
10 (3) 50L775- **HAVANA'S DREAM (149)** R Harris 4 9-2 — R Hornby 46

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 8 VISOR: No. 9 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Celtic John, 7-2 Poke The Bear, 9-2 Charles Morin, 5 Dion Baker, 8 Volendam, 16 World Of Darcy, Resilient Lady, 20 Reel Power, Unknown Journey, 25 Havana's Dream.
2025: Mr Fustic 7-9-7, Dylan Hogan 11-1 (Andi Brown), drawn (5), 10 ran.

2.50 BETMGM.CO.UK CLASSIFIED STAKES
£3,140 (6) 7f 1yds (9)

1 (6) 3281-31 **ROYAL JET (7) (C,D) (S)** A Carroll 6 10-0 — W Carson 57
2 (3) L580-55 **ALYARA (5)** Joe Ponting 8 9-9 — J Mitchell 52
3 (1) 87896-4 **HENRY TUDOR (22)** M Hoad 4 9-9 — C Bishop 55
4 (2) 79000-4 **HUNTLY LODGE (17)** A Perrett 5 9-9 — L Morris 55
5 (9) 540L-72 **SARABI (17) (C,F)** Michael Keady 4 9-9 — Rossa Ryan 57
6 (8) 0453S-7 **STACEY RACEY (19) (D)** Kieran Burke 5 9-9 — C Fallon 58
7 (5) 07683-1 **TILSWORTH MAX (19) (C&D)** J R Jenkins 6 9-9 — J Peate 57
8 (7) 415-237 ● **VITALLINE (3) (C&D)** Kieran Burke 8 9-9 — T Heard 59
9 (4) 85L69-4 **ZALTALLA (19) (C&D)** M Attwater 5 9-9 — P Bradley ★60

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 4 VISOR: Nos. 5, 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 8
HOOD: Nos. 1, 3.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Royal Jet, 10-3 Tilsworth Max, 13-2 Sarabi, 8 Vitalline, 10 Zaltalla, Huntly Lodge, 14 Stacey Racey, 16 Henry Tudor, 25 Alyara.
2025: Mount Mogan 8-9-9, Luke Morris 7-1 (Mrs L Mongan), drawn (9), 10 ran.

3.20 MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 1m 2f (9)

1 (5) 5819-9 **ANNEXATION (19) (D)** A Carroll 10 9-10 — Jack Doughty 77
2 (2) 4434-46 **MEET ME IN MERAKI (12) (D)** P Evans 5 9-9 — Rossa Ryan ★80
3 (1) 4445L-3 **ALTA RICA (19)** M Tregoning 4 9-9 — H Davies 75
4 (4) 5439L3- **DIDAAR (59)** D P Quinn 5 9-7 — D Keenan 78
5 (6) 3L6055- **PENFOLDS GRANGE (49)** M Pattinson 4 9-7 — W Carson 75
6 (3) 6U55-87 **RAINTOWN (19) (C&D)** J S Moore 6 9-7 — Taylor Fisher(3) 74
7 (8) 467134- **BOWNDER (30) (C&D,F)** J Portman 4 9-6 — O Tubb(5) 75
8 (9) 63111-1 **TOMMY'S PROMISE (12) (C&D,F) (S)** J Ryan 5 9-6 — D J Murphy(7) 76
9 (7) L/255-73 ● **KING'S HAND (12)** Sir M Prescott 4 9-4 — L Morris 76

BLINKERS: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3 HOOD: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Tommy's Promise, 7-2 Alta Rica, 5 King's Hand, 15-2 Didaar, Bowndler, 8 Meet Me In Meraki, 14 Annexation, 20 Penfolds Grange, 25 Raintown.
2025: No corresponding race.

3.50 BETMGM MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
£5,400 (4) 6f 1yds (8)

1 (7) — **BUCKLOW HILL** C Hills 9-7 — Jason Watson –
2 (3) 73263-6 **CHHOTA SAAB (27)** S Woods 9-7 — K O'Neill 74
3 (1) — **SILENT STRIKE** A Balding 9-7 — C Hutchinson –
4 (8) — **DINKY DIAMOND** W Stone 9-2 — J Mitchell –
5 (4) 5- **SAKURA SPIRIT (239)** K P De Foy 9-2 — R Scott ★75
6 (2) — **SALAMIS BAY** G Kelleway 9-2 — L Morris –
7 (6) 87L- **SATURDAY AGAIN (140)** S Dow 9-2 — P Bradley 52
8 (5) — ● **SEVEN OF HEARTS** C Cox 9-2 — Rossa Ryan –

HOOD: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Silent Strike, 7-2 Sakura Spirit, 9-2 Chhota Saab, 11-2 Seven Of Hearts, 13-2 Bucklow Hill, 16 Salamis Bay, 25 Dinky Diamond, 33 Saturday Again.
2025: No corresponding race.

4.20 MAKE THE MOVE TO MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 6f 1yds (6)

1 (6) 656964- **INVINCIBLE SPEED (32) (C&D)** M Loughnane 5 9-9 — P Bradley ★80
2 (5) 32233L- **HAVANA JOY (71)** C Hills 4 9-7 — Jason Watson 76
3 (1) 2L411-1 **ALL TOO BEAUTIFUL (26) (C&D,F)** R Teal 4 9-6 — J Mitchell 76
4 (2) 28504-7 **MART (17) (C&D)** D Cunha 5 9-5 — L Morris 79
5 (4) 1/9708-7 **STAPLEFORD PARK (14)** M Attwater 4 9-3 — J Leavy 72
6 (3) 09-5312 ● **PORFIN (3) (C&D)** P McEntee 8 8-5 — C Planas(3) 78

CHEEK PIECES: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 13-8 All Too Beautiful, 2 Porfin, 7 Mart, Invincible Speed, 10 Havana Joy, 12 Stapleford Park.
2025: No corresponding race.

CHELMSFORD CITY RACINGTV

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THE SCOUT

5.00 Master Dandy
5.30 SECRET HISTORY (nap)
6.00 Poetic Jack
6.30 ABERAMA GOLD (nb)
7.00 Edergole's Gift
7.30 Taranjerine
8.00 Gennadius

5.00 ARTFUL DODGER AFTER RACING HCAP
£3,664 (Class 6) 5f (12 declared)

1 (9) L/493-51 **HE'S AN ANGEL (3) (D)** K Frost 6 10-0(5ex) — O Stammers 60
2 (2) 03-9412 ● **MASTER DANDY (3) (D,F)** Michael Keady 6 9-11(5ex) — H Crouch 63
3 (12) 7L75-62 **DESDEMONA (8) (D)** M Attwater 4 9-9 — H Doyle ★66
4 (5) L685L4/ **TOP STAR (495)** D Ivory 4 9-8 — J F Egan –
5 (4) 2295-45 **SMASHER (10)** M Attwater 6 9-7 — S M Levey 64
6 (3) 8883L-3 **FOREVER NOAH (25)** Joey Ramsden 5 9-5 — F Marsh 65
7 (7) 2725-LL **IT'S SHOWTIME (8) (D)** C Allen 5 9-5 — R Kavanagh(5) 64
8 (8) L86-273 **THE DEFIANT (2) (C&D)** L Dace 10 9-2 — J Dace(5) 61
9 (1) 3523I-4 **MARCUS (14)** C Wallis 5 9-0 — S D Bowen 64
10 (6) 95L09-L **COMMENDATION (15) (D)** Martin Dunne 4 9-0 — D E Hogan 59
11 (10) 674L-43 **SECOND COLLECTION (10) (D)** A Carroll 10 9-0 — M Slater(7) 59
12 (11) 84/L0L-5 **SNOW BOOTS (14)** A Carroll 5 9-0 — Myla Coppins(7) 57

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 9 VISOR: No. 10
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 7, 8
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 8 HOOD: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 4 He's An Angel, 5 Master Dandy, 11-2 Desdemona, 7 Forever Noah, 15-2 Smasher, 8 Second Collection, 10 The Defiant, Top Star, Marcus, 25 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

5.30 FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE)
£5,234 (4) 6f (8)

1 (3) 4- **SEVEN FIRES (57)** J Channon 4 10-2 — G Bass 53
2 (1) 3257-42 **ADALIDA (10)** S C Williams 3 9-0 — J Dace(5) 62
3 (5) L-8 **ANABA GIRL (8)** J & S Best 3 9-0 — F Marsh 31
4 (7) — **MILITZIE** S C Williams 3 9-0 — S M Levey –
5 (8) 23- ● **SECRET HISTORY (144) (S)** E Walker 3 9-0 — H Crouch ★72
6 (6) L — **SEQUENTIAL (16)** Martin Dunne 3 9-0 — H Doyle 12
7 (4) 65-3 **TABBY KAT (16)** J Chapple-Hyam 3 9-0 — A Egan(7) 61
8 (2) 535- **WELCOME RETREAT (203)** James Owen 3 9-0 — P Cosgrave 66

CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Secret History, 3 Welcome Retreat, 10-3 Tabby Kat, 9-2 Adalida, 12 Seven Fires, 20 Militzie, 66 Anaba Girl, 100 Sequential.
2025: Diamont Katie 3-9-2, Clifford Lee 7-4 (K R Burke), drawn (1), 7 ran.

6.00 CLASSIFIED STAKES
£3,664 (6) 6f (7)

1 (1) 60-3235 **BISHOP'S GLORY (5) (D)** Joey Ramsden 6 9-9 — F Marsh 57
2 (4) 5568-21 **DUBAI MAGIC (21) (C&D,F)** M Crawley 4 9-9 — H Doyle ★60
3 (6) 02554-3 **LION RING (27) (C&D)** Andrew Martin 8 9-9 — R Kavanagh(5) 54
4 (5) 64683-2 ● **POETIC JACK (21) (C,D)** R Cowell 6 9-9 — S M Levey 57
5 (3) 67-2LL6 **TOMMYTWOHOOTS (3) (D)** S A Harris 8 9-9 — A Rawlinson 59
6 (2) 457-932 **UNDER CURFEW (14) (D)** A Carroll 10 9-9 — G Mangan 56
7 (7) 667-53L **UP THE MONK (3) (D)** M Appleby 4 9-9 — Mason Paetel(5) 53

VISOR: Nos. 1, 5, 7
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 4, 6.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Poetic Jack, 10-3 Dubai Magic, 9-2 Under Curfew, Bishop's Glory, 13-2 Lion Ring, 12 Tommytwohoots, Up The Monk.
2025: Due Date 5-9-9, Cieren Fallon 14-1 (C Wallis), drawn (12), 11 ran.

6.30 18TH JUNE LADIES DAY HANDICAP
£5,234 (4) 6f (9)

1 (8) 22111-4 **JUSTCALLMEPETE (12) (C&D)** A Carroll 7 9-10 — D Costello 92
2 (1) LL517-L **INTERVENTION (12) (C&D)** M Appleby 9 9-9 — Mason Paetel(5) 92
3 (3) 51042-7 **STANLEY SPENCER (28) (D)** J Tate 5 9-7 — H Crouch 92
4 (6) 072L-03 ● **ABERAMA GOLD (9) (C&D,F) (T)** D O'Meara 9 9-7 — B Garritty 95
5 (2) 3L2060- **KNEBWORTH (97) (C&D)** R Hughes 6 9-7 — F Marsh 94
6 (9) 71/L98-L **MEDIA SHOOTER (15) (D)** James Owen 5 9-3 — S D Bowen 83
7 (7) 4/19854- **TWILIGHT FUN (56) (C&D,F)** C Banham 6 9-1 — J Haynes 90
8 (4) 152905- **REBEL PATH (159) (C&D)** S C Williams 7 8-13 — J Dace(5) ★96
9 (5) 03923G- **JESSE LUC (124) (C&D)** M Murphy 6 8-10 — H Doyle 94

BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 5, 7 VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 9
CHEEK PIECES: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Aberama Gold, 9-2 Justcallmepete, Stanley Spencer, 11-2 Rebel Path, Twilight Fun, 10 Jesse Luc, Intervention, 14 Knebworth, 25 Media Shooter.
2025: No corresponding race.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Hollie Doyle 14% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** S C Williams 13% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 5.00 Commendation (visor), Top Star (hood), 6.00 Up The Monk (visor), 7.30 Burano Murano (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 5.30 Secret History. 6.00 Poetic Jack. 7.00 Bullington Bry(hcp), Charlatan(hcp), Impulse Buy(hcp). 8.00 Mandana(hcp). **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Aberama Gold** (6.30) 205 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 5.00 **Top Star** from R Hughes to D Ivory. 7.30 **Burano Murano** from Christian Williams to D P Quinn.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Newmarket: TOMMY'S PROMISE (3.20 Lingfield)
Midlands: ROYAL JET (2.50 Lingfield)
Lambourn: SECRET HISTORY (5.30 Chelmsford)
Scotland: FINISK PRIDE (4.13 Ayr)

7.00 MILE SERIES QUALIFIER 4 HANDICAP
£3,664 (6) 7f (10)

1 (7) 628-512 **MY BOY HARRY (5) (C&D)** J & S Best 4 9-9 — F Marsh 71
2 (1) 52168-2 ● **EDERGOLE'S GIFT (26) (C&D)** C Allen 5 9-8 — R Kavanagh(5) 70
3 (6) 04L- **POTTERS PRINCE (57)** M Crawley 4 9-7 — H Crouch 63
4 (2) 575579- **AMAYSMONT (33) (C&D)** K Frost 9 9-6 — O Stammers 66
5 (10) 432L28- **BULLINGTON BRY (48)** J Chapple-Hyam 4 9-6 — H Doyle ★72
6 (5) 776627- **IMPULSE BUY (43)** C Hobson 4 9-5 — S D Bowen 70
7 (8) 44723-6 **THOMAS EQUINAS (26) (C&D)** D Ivory 7 9-5 — R Havlin 69
8 (4) 41638- **YOU ARE EVERYTHING (43)** A Carroll 7 9-4 — N Currie 70
9 (9) 47721-7 **CHARLATAN (23)** D M Simcock 6 9-2 — J Dace(5) 69
10 (3) L86-6 **LOWESTOFT (7)** C Dunnett 4 8-9 — G Mangan 61

BLINKERS: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 7.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 My Boy Harry, 4 Edergole's Gift, 5 Charlatan, 6 Impulse Buy, 7 Bullington Bry, 10 Thomas Equinas, 12 You Are Everything, 16 Others.
2025: Windsor Pass 7-9-8, Luke Morris 2-1 Fav (J Butler), drawn (8), 8 ran.

7.30 99 ANNUAL PASS HANDICAP
£3,664 (6) 2m (8)

1 (5) L/7432- **BURANO MURANO (J66)** D P Quinn 4 9-9 — R Havlin 60
2 (6) 39130-2 ● **TARANJERINE (22) (C)** J Boyle 4 9-8 — P Cosgrave 63
3 (2) 883L2- **ROGUE JUSTICE (145) (F)** Jack Jones 4 9-6 — H Crouch 63
4 (1) 33/335L- **SULLIVAN BAY (218) (C&D)** J & S Best 6 9-6 — F Marsh 64
5 (4) PL7L0-8 **ALEX THE GREAT (17) (D)** A Carroll 6 9-5 — N Currie 55
6 (7) 47688/6 **SHIBUYA SONG (9)** James Owen 7 9-5 — Mason Paetel(5) 38
7 (3) 5416-67 **ARENAS DEL TIEMPO (12) (C)** J & S Best 8 9-5 — D E Hogan 65
8 (8) L367/4-7 **HICONIC (22)** A Hales 9 8-12 — H Doyle ★66

VISOR: Nos. 4, 6
TONGUE STRAP: No. 5
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 3.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Taranjerine, 5-2 Rogue Justice, 8 Hiconic, Arenas Del Tiempo, 10 Sullivan Bay, 12 Alex The Great, Burano Murano, 20 Shibuya Song.
2025: No corresponding race.

8.00 MILE SERIES QUALIFIER 5 HANDICAP
£4,449 (5) 1m (7)

1 (3) 20363-1 **LEXINGTON JET (14) (C&D)** D Loughnane 4 9-7 — C J Whiteley(7) 81
2 (7) 87145-2 **H KEY LAILS (17) (C&D)** M Attwater 6 9-6 — R Kavanagh(5) 80
3 (1) 98526-4 **STRAIGHT A (27)** M Appleby 5 9-6 — R Havlin ★83
4 (4) 3522-61 ● **GENNADIUS (14) (C&D,F)** R Hannon 4 9-6 — S M Levey 80
5 (6) 165/0L6- **LADY JUSTICE (90)** S C Williams 4 9-4 — Grace McEntee 73
6 (5) 35045I- **LUMINOUS WARRIOR (43) (D,F)** D Cunha 4 9-4 — H Doyle 79
7 (2) 20734-3

PROP UINI HAS HEART ATTACK

FRANCE prop Uini Atonio is in intensive care after suffering a heart attack that has ended his career with immediate effect.

The 35-year-old, who had been named in Fabien Galthie's squad for the Six Nations, was admitted to La Rochelle hospital on Tuesday with a suspected heart problem, and examinations confirmed a myocardial infarction.

"His condition is now stable and he remains under surveillance in intensive care," his club La Rochelle – where he won two European titles – said in a statement.

"At the end of his hospitalisation, Uini will have to observe a long period of convalescence. It is now established he will be unable to continue his playing career." A fans' favourite, instantly recognisable for his massive beard, Atonio played 68 matches for France.

Les Bleus kick-off the Six Nations a week today at home to Ireland.

Born in New Zealand to Samoan parents, Atonio spent most of his career at La Rochelle, joining in 2011. After qualifying for France on residency grounds, he earned his first cap in 2014.

Atonio, in action at the 2023 Rugby World Cup, above, started all five matches in the 2022 Six Nations Championship and won the Grand Slam with France.

In 2025, he won another Six Nations title after victory against Scotland.

Aki is hit for Six over ref abuse

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

BUNDEE AKI has been kicked out of Ireland's Six Nations training squad as he faces a misconduct charge over abusing match officials.

Andy Farrell's team are in camp in Portugal but centre Aki has been left at home as the IRFU investigate his behaviour in Connacht's 34-23 defeat to Leinster on Saturday.

Aki, 35, also faces a URC hearing scheduled for last night but the Irish union acted swiftly to chop him and he is in danger of missing the opener against France next Thursday if not the entire tournament.

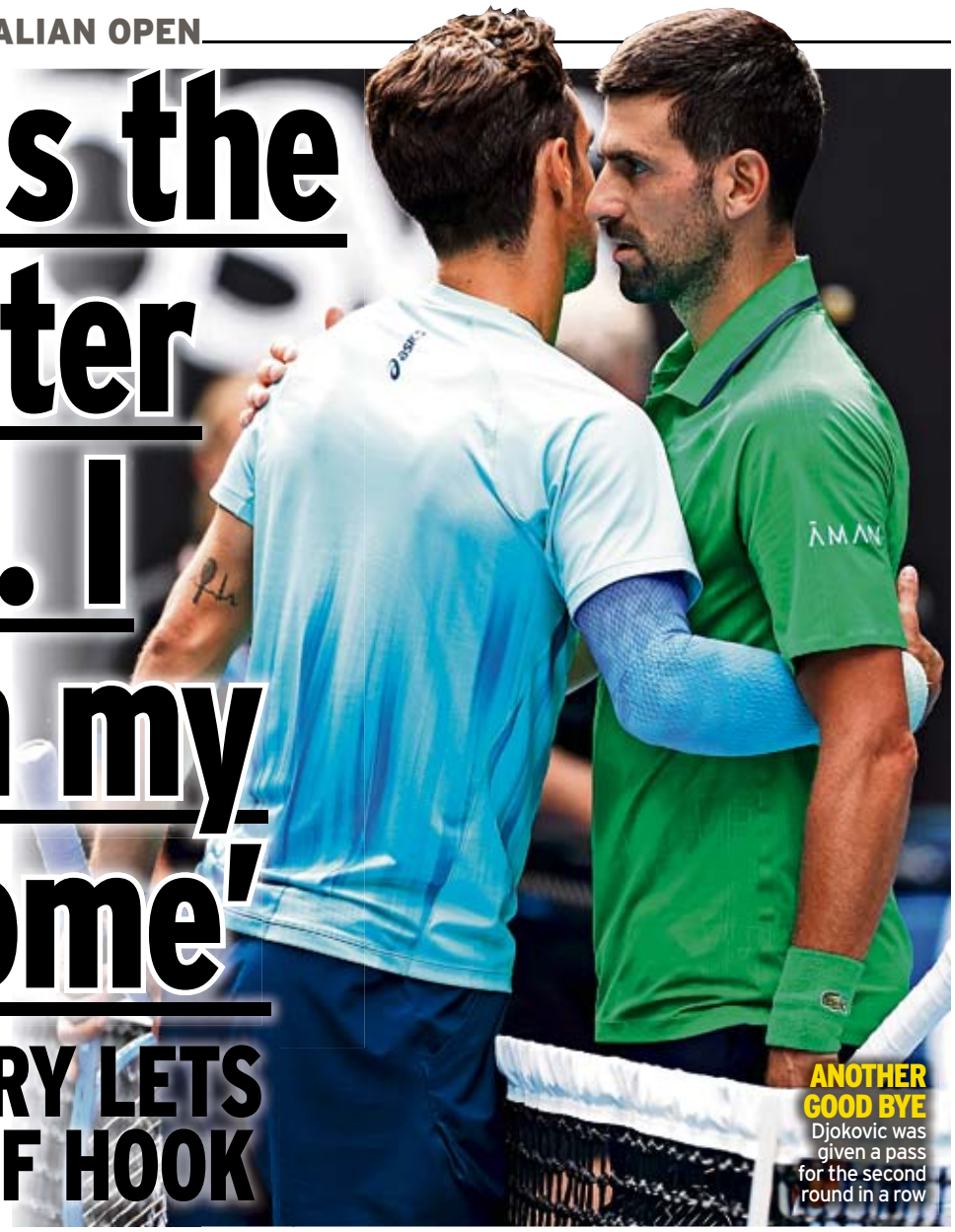
Ireland have already lost full-back Hugo Keenan for that match with a broken thumb. During the URC game, referee Eoghan Cross penalised Aki for repeatedly confronting him after coming on as a second-half replacement.

Cross could be heard on TV coverage telling Connacht captain Cian Prendergast: "If I hear No.22 or No.23 [Aki] speaking again, they're going to be penalised." Aki (circle) chirped once more, was penalised and it could cost him his Six Nations.

Uncapped Ulster centre Jude Postlethwaite has been called up but Aki's absence is a major loss for Ireland with another midfielder, Robbie Henshaw, sidelined.

'He was the far better player.. I was on my way home'

RIVAL'S INJURY LETS DJOKOVIC OFF HOOK



ANOTHER GOOD BYE Djokovic was given a pass for the second round in a row

FROM **YASMIN SYED** in Melbourne

NOVAK DJOKOVIC is counting his lucky stars after reaching the Australian Open semi-finals when he should have been "on the way home".

The No.4 seed trailed Lorenzo Musetti by two sets to love when the young Italian suddenly picked up a leg injury and was forced to retire at 6-4 6-3 1-3.

Djokovic looked out of sorts as he hit 31 unforced errors in the first two sets and was on course for his earliest exit here since 2018 – but he's now in line to win a historic 25th Grand Slam title.

The Serbian superstar had already received a walkover into the quarter-finals when his fourth-round opponent, Jakub Mensik, withdrew from the tournament.

Djokovic then got a lifeline when Musetti retired – and shared his gratitude for getting a pass into his 13th semi-final in Melbourne. The shocked world No.4 said: "I don't know what to say except that I feel really sorry for him.

"He was the far better player, I was on my way home.

"It happened to me a few times, but being in the quarters of a Slam, two sets to love up, in full control, so unfortunate. I wish him a speedy recovery and he should have been the winner, no doubt.

UPSETTI No.5 seed Musetti had a two-set lead but was then forced to retire

"I'm going to double my prayers tonight of gratitude to God for really giving me the opportunity. I'm going to do my best in a couple of days to use it."

I'm going to do my best to use this opportunity... he should have been the winner

And Djokovic knows he will need to raise his level when he meets two-time defending champion Jannik Sinner on Friday after a sub-par performance in the quarter-finals.

The 38-year-old added: "I've under-performed for the level that I showed throughout this tournament up to today.

"I have to play better, no doubt about it. I know that if I'm feeling well and the body is holding on and I'm playing well, then I always have a chance.

"I know that it's only going to get tougher from here, but I have to be ready for it.

"I cannot predict the result of whether I'm going to play well or not, but I'm definitely going to give my best."

No.2 seed Sinner advanced to a third straight Australian Open semi-final with a routine 6-3 6-4 6-4 win over big-serving American Ben Shelton.

The Italian is unbeaten in 19 matches in Melbourne and has won his last five meetings with Djokovic – including a showdown in the semis here two years ago.

Sinner, the 2024 and 2025 champion, said: "We are lucky to have Novak here, playing incredible tennis at his age.

"He is the most professional athlete we have here in the locker room. Me as a 24-year-old, I'm lucky to have someone like him in front of my eyes."

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR ELENA

FROM **YASMIN SYED**

ELENA RYBAKINA says she is feeling "calm" despite reaching a second Australian Open semi-final.

But Jessica Pegula wants to crack the Rybakina code when they meet today.

The No.5 seed finished runner-up here in 2023, and now feels that going deep at the biggest tournaments is just part of the job.

After beating Iga Swiatek 7-5 6-1 in the last eight, 26-year-old Rybakina, right, said: "When it's the first final, and you go so far in the tournament, you are more emotional.

"Now I feel like I'm just doing my job, trying to improve each day."

Pegula reached a maiden semi-final here on her fourth attempt, beating Wimbledon and US Open runner-up Amanda Anisimova 6-2 7-6.

The No.6 seed said: "I was like, it's got to be coming. I've got to get to the semi." Pegula and Rybakina have faced off six times previously, with their head-to-head record split at 3-3. But the Kazakh came from a set down to beat Pegula at the WTA Finals two months ago.

"She's really tough to play, she has a massive serve, big groundstrokes, cool as a cucumber, you get nothing out of her," said Pegula. "She's been playing some great tennis since the end of last year, but I'm going to do my best to hopefully crack the code on her."

IAN'S ONE MAJOR FAMILY AMBITION

Poulter & Son's Open dream would be the 'icing on cake'

EXCLUSIVE BY **SAM FROST**

IAN POULTER says the "icing on the cake" of his career would be to play in a Major tournament with his son, Luke.

The Ryder Cup legend, who turned 50 this month, dreams of one day ticking off the last sporting item on his bucket list.

Luke, 22, is at the University of Florida and is No. 14 in the World Amateur Golf Rankings.

With blond locks and a natural flair, Poulter Jr is a chip off the old block.

Ian's world ranking has plummeted outside the top 3,500 since joining LIV in 2022, meaning he has to earn a place at the Majors the hard way. The father-son duo attempted to qualify for last year's Open at Portrush, both missing the mark by three shots, but they aim to give it another go this summer for Birkdale.

"I would love to play in a Major with my son," said Poulter. "That would be the icing on the cake. I've done everything I need to do, this isn't about me and my future at this point.

"I want to play some great, solid golf. I'd like to win out here (on LIV), but I'd certainly love to play a Major with Luke." Ian and Tiger Woods have a lot in common in this regard. Woods' son, Charlie, is also a promising amateur, though he is only 16 and still in high school, while Luke has already represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup.

Last week, Woods admitted that watching his son was more nerve-wracking than when the 15-time Major winner was in his pomp, and Poulter Sr can relate.

He said: "It's harder because you have no control. You're kind of helpless. But I use it as a learning exercise to see how I would have approached certain things, watching him, how he approaches things, and see if I can give any constructive comments.

"That may be useful, some of them are, some of them aren't, but it brings a lot of pride to me to watch him play."

Luke has 18 months of college eligibility remaining, should he decide against turning professional in the meantime.

But when the time comes for him to try his luck in the paid ranks, Ian could be in a position to give his son an opportunity on LIV.

However, the five-time Ryder Cup winner insists he will let his son choose his own path.

He said: "His future is exactly what he wants to do, so the world's his oyster at this point.

"He's got a lot of good golf left at college, he's playing a lot of good golf, and it's up to him."

As for his own career, Ian returns to action at LIV's season opener in Saudi Arabia next week, and he has been hard at work over the off-season after narrowly avoiding relegation.

"The old man's been grinding," he said with a smirk. "I want to come out as quick as I can."

One player Poulter won't have to contend with is Patrick Reed after the American announced he is leaving LIV Golf and rejoining the PGA Tour.

Reed, who will serve a one-year suspension from his last LIV event in August, said: "I'm a traditionalist at heart, and I was born to play on the PGA Tour."

IT'S TEE TIME, SON Poulter hopes to feature in a Major event with son Luke

'I've done everything I need to do at this point but I'd certainly love to play a Major with Luke'

ROOT CAN'T BRANCH OUT INTO T20

CRICKET

HARRY BROOK admits Joe Root was never in the frame to make England's T20 World Cup squad.

The 35-year-old (right) has issued a reminder of his enduring quality with scores of 51, 75 and an unbeaten 111 in the ODI series victory in Sri Lanka.

Root is a master of building an innings on spinning wickets and his form raised the question of whether England might be missing a trick by not taking him to next month's T20 World Cup, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

Root himself acknowledged, after the series-clinching win in Colombo on Tuesday, he is a "long way off" the T20 squad, having not played for England in that format since 2019.

And asked if Root, right, was ever in contention for the squad, captain Brook said: "Probably not, no. He's obviously such a phenomenal player.

"In all conditions, he's done it everywhere. But he wasn't quite in the mix."

Moeen Ali has ended his retirement from English domestic cricket by joining Yorkshire in a Blast-only contract for the 2026 season.

The former England all-rounder, 39 in June, played for Warwickshire in the same competition last year and has been spending the winter on the franchise circuit. The deal includes the option to extend for 2027.

Test captain Ben Stokes will join the England Lions in the United Arab Emirates next month. The 34-year-old will be part of Andrew Flintoff's coaching team.

WORLD OF SPORT

Fury is homing in on return to throne

BOXING

BY **MARTIN DOMIN**

TYSON FURY warned Oleksandr Usyk he is back to reclaim his throne after announcing his return to the ring.

Fury, 37, will take on giant Russian Arslanbek Makhmudov on April 11.

FURY

The clash will take place in the UK and will be shown on Netflix, the first time the streaming service has broadcast a fight live from these shores. It will be Fury's first outing in his homeland since he stopped Derek Chisora in their trilogy bout in 2022.

The former two-time world champion retired 12 months ago following back-to-back defeats by Usyk.

The Brit said: "I'm excited to be back. My heart's always been and always will be in boxing.

"Someone go tell the king that the ace is back! I've been away for four years but I'm back now. The year we have planned... this is just the tip of the iceberg."

THE BIG PICTURE

EYES ON THE BALL: Iga Swiatek at the Australian Open

Bill snub is 'insane'

NFL

BY **KEITH WEBSTER**

PATRICK MAHOMES led an outraged chorus of players and coaches after NFL legend Bill Belichick was snubbed by the Hall of Fame.

The former New England Patriots head coach, who took the team to nine Super Bowls, winning six of them, was expected to be a dead cert for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame when the Class of 2026 is announced next week, days before Seattle and New England do battle in Super Bowl LX in California. But a report from ESPN, citing verification from four sources, claimed that Belichick had fallen short of the minimum 40 of the 50 votes needed to see him elected to the Hall at the first time of asking.

Kansas City quarterback Mahomes was quick to react to the news and said: "Insane... don't even understand how this could be possible."

10 to tackle

1. Who took 5-45 for England in the 1st innings of the 4th Test win over Australia in Melbourne in December, 2025?
2. Which 300-1 James Best mount became the longest-priced winner in UK racing history at Exeter in December, 2025?
3. Who scored a hat-trick for Northampton Saints in the 2025-2026 Investec Champions Cup home win over Vodacom Bulls?
4. Which non-league club knocked Liverpool out of the 1958/59 FA Cup?
5. Which athlete was BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 2004?
6. Which American tennis player did Martina Navratilova beat in the ladies' singles final at Wimbledon in 1990?
7. Which father and son were British and Commonwealth Heavyweight boxing champions in the 1940s and 1950s respectively?
8. Which British runner won the men's race at the Boston Marathon in 1984 and 1985?
9. Which Swedish golfer won the Dubai World Tour Championship in 2010?
10. Who was the only Frenchman to have won the Superbike World Championship prior to 2014?

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Josh Tongue. 2 Blowers. 3 George Hendy. 4 Worcester City. 5 Kelly Holmes. 6 Zina Garrison. 7 Jack and Brian London. 8 Geoff Smith. 9 Robert Karlsson. 10 Raymond Roche.

'Give Peters a try'

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY **JOSH McALLISTER**

WILLIE PETERS has seen one of his most trusted lieutenants break ranks to publicly back him for the role of England head coach.

Peters, who is among the favourites for the job, has already made public his desire to learn more about the position ahead of this year's Rugby League World Cup in Australia.

The Hull KR coach led his club to a historic 2025 campaign in which they won every piece of silverware on offer.

Rovers captain Elliot Minchella has now joined the growing calls for Peters to take the England role, which will revert to a part-time position after Shaun Wane stepped down earlier this month.

"I'd be supportive," said Robins star Minchella. "As a coach, I think his record speaks for itself. I've worked with him every day and the detail he has and the care – he's the best coach I've worked with.

"I can't see how that would be a negative appointment."

Leeds boss Brad Arthur has also confirmed his interest in the role, while Wigan coach Matt Peet has distanced himself from the conversations.

WILL POWER Hull KR won the Grand Final under Peters last year

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LAST ROLL OF DYCHE

Forest outsiders for top-eight spot

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v FERENCVAROS
Europa League: League stage, KO 8pm

BY **DARREN WELLS**

SEAN DYCHE conceded it's a "long shot" for Nottingham Forest to beat Robbie Keane's Ferencvaros tonight and avoid a Europa League play-off.

Forest look set for a spot in the play-off round ahead of their final league phase match against the Hungarian side, who sit inside the automatic places in seventh.

The Reds, who are down in 16th, need to beat Keane's side and hope a host of results go their way to make it through to the last 16 automatically.

Dyche is focusing on getting the win which would most likely secure home advantage in the second leg of the play-off round.

"It's a long shot," Dyche (right) admitted. "We approach it like any other, we want to win it, because you get a home game in the second leg which is classed as favourable.

"We want to win, we want to keep that feeling attached to that league programme."

"Getting into the draw is not the only thing that matters, but good form is also important.

"It is difficult to balance between the Europa League and the [Premier League], but apart from the match against Braga [a 1-0 loss last week], we have managed it well.

"Against Braga, we were far from the level expected of us. We want to keep up."

Former Tottenham and Leeds star Keane led Ferencvaros to the Hungarian title last season and they are unbeaten in seven matches in Europe.

"We will see what Ferencvaros are capable of," Dyche said. "Robbie is doing a good job on the international stage. There are good people working with the team there, but also here."

Forest will have to do without Douglas Luiz who completed a return to Aston Villa yesterday on loan from Juventus.

The Brazilian did not hit the heights at the City Ground, making 14 appearances, but battled with injury.

"It was a difficult one for me," Dyche said. "When we came here he got injured, he recovered from that and agreed to be rushed back a little bit.

"He was a bit frustrated with his true fitness and his form. But we know what a good player he is, there is no two ways about that.

"But he has an opportunity and we felt it was right, he felt it was right and it is a win-win."

Dyche added that Forest are "waiting for news" on their pursuit of Crystal Palace striker Jean-Phillipe Mateta.

Forest had an initial bid rejected for the Frenchman, who is understood to want to leave Selhurst Park, but they are still wanting to bring him to the City Ground ahead of Monday's deadline.

Wolves goalkeeper Jose Sa is another reported target. "You have all seen the news, we are trying to be proactive to strengthen where we can," Dyche said. "If we can get players in we will do that."

Tielemans KO is latest Villa blow

Aston Villa v Salzburg
Europa League, kick-off 8pm

ASTON VILLA boss Unai Emery confirmed Youri Tielemans is set to miss the next couple of months to complete a hat-trick of midfield injury blows.

Tielemans, 28, suffered an ankle injury at Newcastle on Sunday and adds to a growing list of Villa midfielders who are out as he joins Boubacar Kamara and John McGinn on the sidelines.

It means Villa will be without a number of their first-choice options in midfield for their last Europa League group-phase match against RB Salzburg.

Villa have already secured their place in the top eight but will be looking to claim top spot with a win. Emery said: "We know about Kamara, McGinn and Tielemans. Kamara is a long time, I think he's not going to play this season. McGinn, more or less, is 6-8 weeks out and Tielemans is 8-10."

But Villa were able to complete a loan deal for former star Douglas Luiz from Juventus.

HEART AND SOL Solanke celebrates doubling the lead

0-1 Kolo Muani flicks the ball in with his heel to earn the breakthrough for Spurs

WE'VE GONE AND DOM IT

Solanke back with a bang to seal Spurs' place in the top eight

FRANKFURT	0
TOTTENHAM	2

Muani 47, Solanke 77

BY **ALASDAIR GOLD**

RANDAL KOLO MUANI came back to haunt Frankfurt and help send Tottenham into the last 16.

Decked out in their traditional all-white look for European nights under the lights as light snow fell, Spurs knew a victory would send them straight through as one of the top eight.

In the end it was a goal from Frankfurt old boy Kolo Muani and another from Dominic Solanke that did the job and meant the nightmare prospect of a two-legged play-off was avoided.

Boss Thomas Frank (circle) went into the game without the services of 14 players, including the injured Micky van de Ven and Pedro Porro, meaning he had just 11 senior outfield names from which to choose his starting line-up.

The one senior star who took a place on the bench was Solanke, after his first back-to-back starts since May following his troublesome ankle problem.

That meant Kolo Muani was up front for Spurs against his old team just over 24 hours after his lucky escape when a blown tyre on his Ferrari led to a crash on the M25 as he was driving to Stansted Airport to catch the flight to Germany.

The Frenchman was booed with every touch by fans that once cheered him but he was about to have the last laugh over his former team.

It looked like Spurs had opened the scoring within three minutes when Xavi Simons slammed home Kolo Muani's low parried cross but Destiny Udogie was offside in the build-up and deemed to be interfering with play.

Frankfurt had conceded three goals in each of their previous five matches and their defence showed signs throughout of it possibly happening again.

The returning Joao Palhinha, playing on the right of a back three, and Pape Matar Sarr both had early efforts at goal before Wilson Odobert struck the right-hand post.

Xavi was then gifted the ball by Eintracht goal-keeper Kaua Santos in the hosts' box before the break but the keeper made up for it by getting a toe to the Dutchman's strike.

Frankfurt had a late chance before the interval when Hugo Larsson's shot bounced off the top of the cross-bar.

Spurs finally scored two minutes into the second half when Xavi's deep cross was headed into the six-yard box by the unmarked Cristian Romero and Kolo Muani flicked the ball into the net with his heel.

The visitors then queued up to have a go at the Eintracht goal in the aftermath.

Sarr saw his low shot saved by Santos before Xavi's deflected effort rolled wide of the Frankfurt goal with the keeper wrong-footed.

Nineteen-year-old Archie Gray had a strike blocked in the box before Romero sent a header at the goal-keeper.

It was left to Solanke to come off the bench to seal the victory with a low assured finish after running on to Mahmoud Dahoud's poor header back – putting Tottenham safely into the last 16.

FRANKFURT: Santos, Amenda, Koch, Theate, Buta, Hojlund (Dahoud 72), Skhiri (Chaibi 72), Larsson (Bahoya 83), Brown (Doan 72), Gotze (Dills 83), Knauff
TOTTENHAM: Vicario, Palhinha, Romero, Danso, Spence, Sarr, Gray, Udogie (Byfield 89), Odobert (Solanke 73), Kolo Muani (Scarlett 84), Xavi
REF: Jesus Gil Manzano (Spain)

HULL BRING BACK PADDY FROM USA

BY **BARRY COOPER**

PADDY McNAIR has joined Hull City's promotion surge after penning an 18-month contract.

The deal includes an option to extend by a further 12 months after McNair agreed to end his contract with San Diego in the MLS.

The Northern Ireland international was at the MKM Stadium on Saturday to watch Hull win a third game in a week by seeing off Swansea.

McNair (above), 30, is expected to be in City's squad that heads to Ewood Park on Saturday to take on Blackburn Rovers.

OWLS FAVOURITE BANNAN IS A LION

BARRY BANNAN has completed his move from Sheffield Wednesday to Championship rivals Millwall.

The long-serving Owls midfielder (inset), who has signed an 18-month contract at The Den, spent a decade at Hillsborough with more than 450 appearances.

Millwall director of football Steve Gallen said: "I'm really pleased to bring Barry into our football club. He's a player that myself, Alex (Neil) and fans all over the country have admired for many years."

Bannan, 36, was given an emotional send-off by Wednesday fans after their defeat at Bristol City on Saturday.

APPLETON AXED BY SHREWS

SHREWSBURY have parted company with Michael Appleton after a sixth defeat in seven League Two matches.

Appleton (above) took over at New Meadow last March and even though he was unable to secure League One survival, he stayed on to spearhead the club's promotion bid.

Tuesday's 1-0 loss at Cambridge made it 15 league defeats this term and the board has acted.

"Shrewsbury can confirm head coach Michael Appleton and his assistant Richard O'Donnell have left the club by mutual consent," a club statement read.

CLUBS SPLASH CASH & RECORD SMASHED

A RECORD £9.49billion was spent on international transfers in men's football in 2025, according to FIFA's Global Transfer Report.

The $13.08bn figure tops the previous record of $9.66bn (£7.01bn) set in 2023, with English football spending more than any other member association.

English clubs spent $3.82bn (£2.7bn) in 2025, with Germany and Italy the only other nations to break the one billion dollars mark.

Last year saw an all-time high of 86,158 international player transfers across the men's and women's professional game and amateur football.

The women's game spent a record $28.6million (£20.74m) in 2025.

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP Joao Pedro celebrates his goal

JOAO DOUBLE MAKES FOR A ROSEY NIGHT

NAPOLI 2
Vergara 33, Hojlund 43
CHELSEA 3
Fernandez 19 (pen), Pedro 61, 82

BY **BOBBY VINCENT**

JOAO PEDRO hauled Chelsea into the Champions League last-16 with a second-half brace.

The Blues had slipped into the play-off spots and were staring at a tricky potential tie with Manchester City's Norwegian giantkillers Bodo/Glimt.

Former Manchester United forward Rasmus Hojlund had put Napoli ahead after Antonio Vergara's stunning goal cancelled out Enzo Fernandez's opener from the penalty spot.

But Pedro saved Liam Rosenior's blushes after the Blues boss was forced to switch formation.

That paved the way for the Brazilian forward to score twice, with his 82nd-minute winner sending Chelsea through.

The Blues announced in the afternoon that they had released 'bomb squad' winger Raheem Sterling.

But there were odder changes on the pitch with the inclusion of Malo Gusto and Wesley Fofana from the team that won at Crystal Palace bringing a switch to a back three.

Chelsea were gifted an early lead when Reece James' free-kick hit the arm of Juan Jesus in the Napoli wall.

Fernandez, for the second game in a row, stepped up and struck the ball beyond the goalkeeper.

Yet rather than press home the advantage, the Blues allowed Napoli to take a grip of the game.

Giovanni Di Lorenzo had a low shot well saved by the feet of Robert Sanchez.

The hosts levelled on 33 minutes through Vergara, who capitalised on some poor defending from Wesley Fofana to send the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona into ecstasy.

It became worse for the visitors just before half-time. Napoli striker Hojlund (inset) finished smartly at the near post from Matheus Olivera's cross.

With the Blues trailing at the break, Rosenior turned to Cole Palmer.

However, Chelsea looked bereft of ideas and Napoli looked comfortable with their lead.

Rosenior then brought another defender on for the away side to go with a more orthodox four at the back with half an hour to go in Naples.

Immediately after, Pedro scored a stunner from 25 yards on his left foot, leaving the fully stretched Alex Meret with no chance in the Napoli goal.

Chelsea then sprang a quick counter-attack as Palmer released Pedro, who charged towards the Napoli box before a quick shift on to his right foot and a low drive into the far corner.

A sweet victory for Rosenior in former Chelsea boss Antonio Conte's patch to boot.

NAPOLI (3-4-3): Meret; Di Lorenzo, Buongiorno, Juan Jesus (Gutierrez 67); Olivera, Lobotka, McTominay, Spinazzola (Beukema 82); Vergara, Hojlund, Elmas (Lukaku 82).
CHELSEA (3-5-2): Sanchez; James, Fofana, Cucurella; Gusto (Chalobah 59), Santos (Gittens 59) (Badiashile 90), Caicedo, Fernandez, Neto (Palmer 46); Estevao (Garnacho 74), Pedro.
REF: Clement Turpin (Fra).

THERE'S WILL AND HO-WAY!

Eddie's men make their point in Paris

HEAD BOY Joe Willock nods in the Newcastle equaliser

PSG 1
Vitinha 8
NEWCASTLE 1
Willock 45

BY **LEE RYDER**

A NIGHT of drama from the very start ended with both PSG and Newcastle in the play-off round – when they looked like they would be making it into the top eight.

It did not take the game long to explode – or should that be implode for Newcastle?

Within the first 45 seconds, PSG attacked down the left through Bradley Barcola.

The ball looped up off Sven Botman, but Barcola appeared to nudge the ball towards Lewis Miley, who wafted his hand in the direction of the ball.

After a monitor check by Slovenian referee Slavko Vincic, he pointed to the spot.

But as Ousmane Dembele stepped up and placed it to the right, Nick Pope guessed the correct way and beat the ball out.

It sent the 2,000 travelling fans wild at the Parc des Princes – but PSG weren't going anywhere quietly.

After eight minutes, Portuguese star Vitinha started a move in his own half, and after eight passes, the ball was at the feet of Khvicha Kvaratskhelia on the right.

The ex-Napoli star cut the ball back to Vitinha, who duped Lewis Hall with a killer feint and then swept it past Pope to put PSG ahead.

Kvaratskhelia then struck one straight at Pope as the home side went for the jugular.

Two minutes later Miley clipped an effort over the top of Matvey Safonov's goal but the keeper had it covered.

To the Magpies' relief, Kvaratskhelia's night was curtailed on 22 minutes as he went off after a clash with Anthony Elanga.

Newcastle tried to hit back on the half-hour mark as Joe Willock's cross was aimed for Elanga, but he failed to get it under control. Nuno Mendes was next to have a go for PSG with his long-range effort going straight into the arms of Pope.

Newcastle had every right to feel aggrieved when Marquinhos' handball was dismissed after a VAR check.

It came when Hall's long throw was flicked on by Dan Burn, and while Nick Woltemade didn't connect with a header, it looked to have hit the PSG star on the arm.

Newcastle stayed in the game and sent their fans wild with an equaliser. Sandro Tonali chipped in a free-kick from the halfway line, with Marquinhos' clearance only falling for skipper Burn to flick it into the path of Willock, who steered home in first-half added time.

POPE SAVES Nick stops Dembele pen

After the break, a quick free-kick from Hall freed Willock again, with the midfielder slipping it past Safonov but the flag was raised for an offside.

At that stage, Newcastle were avoiding the play-offs, but goals elsewhere saw them slip down the table.

Toon boss Eddie Howe introduced Anthony Gordon and Harvey Barnes but the visitors couldn't find the goal to lift them into the top eight.

PSG (4-3-3): Safonov; Hakimi, Marquinhos, Pacho, Nuno Mendes; Neves (Mbaye 87), Vitinha, Zaire-Emery (Mayulu 87); Kvaratskhelia (Doue 23), Dembele, Barcola (Ramos 70).
NEWCASTLE (3-4-2-1): Pope; Thiaw, Botman, Burn; Miley, Ramsey, Tonali, Hall; Elanga (Gordon 68), Willock (Barnes 68); Woltemade (Wissa 79).
REF: S Vincic (Slovenia)

LIVERPOOL 6
Mac Allister 15, 61, Wirtz 21, Salah 50, Ekitike 57, Chiesa 90
QARABAG 0

Salah's back on target again but more injury woe for Slot

BY **ANDY DUNN**

WHEN Florian Wirtz executed the tidiest of finishes to put the outcome of this contest beyond doubt inside the first quarter, Arne Slot did not even take his hands from his pockets.

Because by then, he knew this completion of a Champions League formality would be coming at a cost.

It will certainly not go down as one of the more memorable European nights at Anfield but a clean sheet and a free-scoring run-out can do no harm.

Slot even had the enjoyment of seeing Mo Salah score his first Liverpool goal since November 1, his first since the infamous Elland Road interview.

However, less than two minutes into proceedings, Jeremie Frimpong (circled), shepherding Abdellah Zoubir at pace along the home side's right flank, abruptly pulled up lame.

Dutch midfielder Ryan Gravenberch, an emergency centre-half in Liverpool's defensive availability crisis, put his hands to his head.

After making his professional debut in September, 2019, Frimpong had one significant injury before joining Liverpool last summer, missing eight weeks of Bayer Leverkusen's 2021/22 season.

Ahead of this setback, he had already missed 11 weeks of Liverpool's season with two hamstring injuries.

He now looks certain to miss many more. That has been Slot's and Liverpool's lot this season.

And Slot had only spoken about managing Frimpong's minutes prior to this game.

The Liverpool boss will be hoping Joe Gomez is fit enough to start on Saturday when Newcastle United are the visitors. At least Slot can hope his personnel crisis will have eased by the time their Champions League engagements resume and at least he had the tonic of a stress-free win after the difficult spell in the Premier League.

Salah – and the Kop – enjoyed his strike from a set-piece move early in the second half and it is fair to say the spat between marquee player and manager is over.

Salah, with his 49th Champions League goal, had fun against hapless Qarabag, whose performance made you wonder exactly how they managed to arrive on Merseyside with 10 points to their name.

And the Egyptian was not the only one to have fun after Alexis Mac Allister and Wirtz had put Liverpool in first-half cruise control. After Salah's hit, Hugo Ekitike ran half the length of the field for the fourth, Mac Allister walked in his second and Liverpool's fifth, and substitute Federico Chiesa completed a convincing rout.

Even though the one-sided nature of the game was a bit embarrassing, it was emphatic and it appeared to reinvigorate fans who have become a little less than enthusiastic of late.

And Slot could also give several of his first-choice men a breather well before the end of the non-contest.

Whether or not it will give Liverpool momentum and confidence as they head into the game against Newcastle on the back of a winless five-game run in the Premier League is another matter.

But at least it might have helped Slot forget the latest injury blow to plague his season. Or maybe not.

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Alisson; Frimpong (Endo 4), Gravenberch, Van Dijk, Robertson; Szoboszlai (Nallo 75), Mac Allister; Salah, Wirtz (Ngumoha 67), Gakpo (Chiesa 74); Ekitike (Nyoni 67)
QARABAG (4-2-3-1): Kochalski; Silva, Mustafazada, Medina, Cafarqliyev (Bayramov 67); Bicalho, Jankovic; Andrade (Bolt 67), Montiel (Qurbanli 85), Zoubir (Addai 81); Duran (Axundzade 67)
REFEREE: Ivan Kruzliak

REDS FIND MOJO

NOW THE GOALS FLO
Wirtz scores the second goal before Salah's stunner made it 3-0

SPORT IN BRIEF

UEFA Champions League - League Stage

AE PAFOS (1)..... 4
Dragomir 17
Bruno 53
Anderson Silva 84
Orsic 87
SLV PRAGUE (1) ... 1
Chaloupek 44

AJAX (0)..... 1
Dolberg 69 (pen)
OLYMPIAKOS (0) .. 2
Gelson Martins 52
Hezze 79

ARSENAL (3)..... 3
Gyokeres 2
Havertz 15
Martinelli 36
FC KAIRAT (1) 2
Jorginho 7 (pen)
Ricardinho 90

ATH BILBAO (2) 2
Sancet 3
Guruzeta 28
SPORTING (1)..... 3
Diomande 12
Trincao 62
Alisson Santos 90

AT MADRID (1)..... 1
Sorloth 15
BODO/GLIMT (1)... 2
Sjovold 34, Hogh 59

BARCELONA (0) 4
Lewandowski 48
Yamal 60
Raphinha 69 (pen)
Rashford 85
COPENHAGEN (1) . 1
Dadason 4

BAYER LEV (2) 3
Tillman 12, 35
Grimaldo 57
VILLARREAL (0).... 0

BENFICA (2) 4
Schjelderup 36, 54
Pavlidis 45 (pen)
Trubin 90
REAL MADRID (1). 2
Mbappe 30, 58

B DORTMUND (0)... 0
INTER MILAN (0) .. 2
Dimarco 80
Diouf 90

CLUB BRUGGE (2).. 3
Diakhon 4, Vermant 11
Stankovic 79
MARSEILLE (0)..... 0

E FRANKFURT (0)... 0
TOTTENHAM (0) ... 2
Muani 47
Solanke 77

LIVERPOOL (2)..... 6
Mac Allister 15, 61
Wirtz 21
Salah 50
Ekitike 57
Chiesa 90
QARABAG FK (0) .. 0

MAN CITY (2)..... 2
Haaland 10
Cherki 29
GALATSARAY (0) .. 0

MONACO (0) 0
JUVENTUS (0)..... 0

NAPOLI (2) 2
Vergara 33
Hojlund 43
CHELSEA (1) 3
Fernandez 19 (pen)
Joao Pedro 61, 82

PSG (1)..... 1
Vitinha 8
NEWCASTLE (1) ... 1
Willock 45

PSV (0)..... 1
Saibari 78
BYN MUNICH (0) .. 2
Musiala 58
Kane 84

UNION SG (0)..... 1
Khalaili 70
ATALANTA (0)..... 0

FIFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS CUP SEMI-FINALS: Gotham FC 0, Corinthians 1, Arsenal 6 FAR Rabat 0

CRICKET

4TH T20 INT'NAL (Visakhapatnam): **New Zealand** 215-7 (20.0 overs; T L Seifert 62); **India** 165 (18.4 overs; S R Dube 65; M J Santner 3-26). *New Zealand win by 50 runs.*

ICE HOCKEY

ELITE LGE: Glasgow 4 Nottingham 1.

SNOOKER

GERMAN MASTERS (Berlin)—**1st rd:** N Robertson (Aus) bt J Pang (Chn) 5-2; A Zhang (Chn) bt B Hawkins (Eng) 5-2; M Allen (NIrl) bt G Yang (Chn) 5-3; J Robertson (Eng) bt M Williams (Wal) 5-3, J Trump (Eng) bt R Day (Wal) 5-0; G Xiao (Chn) bt J Lisowski (Eng) 5-1; J Si (Chn) bt D Gilbert (Eng) 5-4; J Higgins (Sco) bt Y Zhou (Chn) 5-3.

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne)—**Men's Singles Quarter-Finals:** N Djokovic (Ser) bt L Musetti (Ita) 4-6 3-6 3-1 ret; J Sinner (Ita) bt B Shelton (USA) 6-3 6-4 6-4.
Women's Singles Quarter-Finals: J Pegula (USA) bt A Anisimova (USA) 6-2 7-6 (7-1); E Rybakina (Kaz) bt I Swiatek (Pol) 7-5 6-1.
Men's Doubles Quarter-Finals: L Johnson (Gbr) & J Zielinski (Pol) bt M Arevalo (Esa) & M Pavic (Cro) 7-6 (7-5) 6-2; C Harrison (USA) & N Skupski (Gbr) bt P Nouza (Cze) & P Rikl (Cze) 6-2 6-3; M Granollers (Spa) & H Zeballos (Arg) bt O Luz (Bra) & R Matos (Bra) 6-3 6-4.

TODAY'S DIARY

(8pm unless stated)
Europa League — League Stage: Aston Villa v Red Bull Salzburg (TNT Sports 2), Basel v Plzen, Celtic v Utrecht (TNT Sports 4), Porto v Rangers (TNT Sports 5), Nottingham Forest v Ferencvaros (TNT Sports 3), FCSB v Fenerbahce, Genk v Malmo, Go Ahead Eagles v Braga, Lille v Freiburg, Ludogorets v Nice, Lyon v PAOK, Maccabi Tel-Aviv v Bologna, Midtjylland v Dinamo Zagreb, Panathinaikos v Roma, Real Betis v Feyenoord, Red Star Belgrade v Celta Vigo, Sturm Graz v Brann, Stuttgart v Young Boys.

CRICKET

1st T20 Int'nal: Pakistan v Australia (Lahore, 1pm), UAE v Ireland (Dubai, 2pm). **2nd T20 Int'nal:** South Africa v West Indies (Centurion, 4pm).

GOLF

DP World Tour Bahrain Ch'ship (Royal GC).
LPGA Tournament of Champions (Lake Nona, Florida).
USPGA Tour Farmers Insurance Open (Torrey Pines, California).

HAV IT Kai Havertz marks his return with second Arsenal goal

KAI'S LIMIT AS MIKEL'S GUNS FEEL GRE-IGHT

ARSENAL 3
Gyokeres 3, Havertz 15, Martinelli 36
KAIRAT 2
Jorginho (pen) 7, Ricardinho 90

BY **JOHN CROSS**

ARSENAL made it eight straight Champions League wins after a tale of two strikers.

Mikel Arteta's Gunners finished top of the table with a 100 per cent record in the league phase.

Kai Havertz was purring on his first start in 357 days, while fellow striker Viktor Gyokeres probably found his level against Kairat.

Havertz looked a class apart with his slick control, passing and a brilliant finish, as his return could be a much needed and timely boost for Arsenal's Premier League title chances.

The difference between the quality of Havertz and the lumbering, misfiring Gyokeres (inset) was stark, as even against second-rate opposition the Sweden star missed a hatful of chances.

Gyokeres did score and provided an assist – although that only came about because he scuffed a shot from three yards into Gabriel Martinelli's path.

But Arsenal's £64m summer signing is just not good enough for a team with aspirations to win the title and the Champions League.

Gyokeres even missed one sitter from three yards and the ball ended up going out for a throw-in.

Incredibly, he has reached 10 goals but, even in the space of just 45 minutes, Havertz showed what they have been missing. The German was hooked at half-time and Gunners fans must be hoping that is an indication he is being saved for Saturday's trip to Leeds, which now feels like such a huge game in their season.

Boss Arteta changed his entire starting line-up from Sunday's defeat to Manchester United, which underlines their strength in depth – and just how bad Kairat are.

Arsenal made light work of them. Havertz played a lovely through ball to Gyokeres, who, in fairness, just about controlled it before rifling home from 20 yards inside two minutes.

But Kairat levelled after seven minutes.

Riccardo Calafiori pulled back Jorginho and after a VAR check he scored from the penalty spot.

Havertz, who has been plagued by a hamstring and a knee injury, then got his goal. He cut into the box, showed nice control and curled home a sweet left-foot shot.

Gyokeres missed two gilt-edged chances before he got on the end of Havertz's low cross, but it still took Martinelli to force the ball over the line after 36 minutes.

Arsenal wasted a host of more chances and then Kairat substitute Ricardinho got an injury time consolation.

ARSENAL (4-3-3): Kepa; White, Mosquera, Calafiori (Hincapie 46), Lewis-Skelly; Eze, Norgaard (Ibrahim 89), Havertz (Odegaard 46); Madueke, Gyokeres (Jesus 77), Martinelli (Bailey-Joseph 77).
KAIRAT (3-4-3): Anarbekov; Shirobokov, Martynovich, Sorokin; Tapalov (Ricardinho 59), Glazer (Kasabulat 70), Sadybekov, Mata (Kurgin 70); Mrynskiy, Edmilson (Gromyko 59), Jorginho (Bagdat 79).
REF: Urs Schnyder (Switzerland).

IT'S HAAL RIGHT ON THE NIGHT

Erling helps to make sure of sweet last 16

CITY SLICKERS Cherki is mobbed after scoring

MAN CITY 2
Haaland 11, Cherki 29
GALATASARAY 0

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

ERLING HAALAND ended his famine with some Turkish delight at the Etihad to help Manchester City book a place in the Champions League knockout stages.

Haaland scored his first goal in open play in nine games as City cruised past Galatasaray to finish in the top eight and avoid a return to the dreaded play-offs.

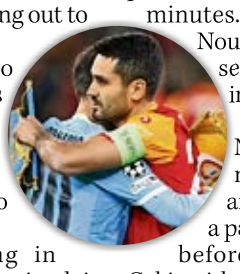
Rayan Cherki added a second before half-time with his third goal in his last five games to ease home nerves on a night when winning was the only option.

But the Etihad looked more like the Emptyhad, with hundreds of City fans choosing to remain at home for this crucial clash.

At least those who turned up saw a dominant display from Pep Guardiola's side, suggesting they could still be genuine contenders to conquer Europe again this season.

City's stunning defeat at European minnows Bodo/Glimt in the Arctic Circle last week meant the 2023 winners only had themselves to blame for the predicament they found themselves in last night.

Guardiola's men could afford no more slip-ups. It all felt like they had learned nothing from what happened last season, when City only just scraped into the play-offs, before crashing out to Real Madrid.



And Galatasaray, who had former City players Ilkay Gundogan (right with Bernardo Silva) and Leroy Sane in the starting XI, were no pushovers.

Despite struggling in Europe, the Turks arrived in Manchester having lost just one of their last nine games in all competitions.

Guardiola, who was without the ineligible Marc Guehi and Antoine Semenyo and suspended Rodri, made four changes and recalled Haaland.

And the striker should have put his side ahead inside three minutes. He met Rayan Ait-Nouri's perfect cross, but sent his diving header inches wide.

But it took the Norwegian just eight minutes to make amends, charging onto a pass from Jeremy Doku before beating Ugurcan Cakir with a delightful finish.

Nico O'Reilly then unleashed a thunderbolt which forced Cakir into a superb save to tip it over the crossbar.

The visitors appeared as threatening as a wet sponge.

ANIMATED CHARACTER Pep Guardiola gets carried away on the touchline

CHIP AND WIN Erling Haaland clips home a classy opener as Manchester City make it to the last 16

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	8	8	0	0	23	4	24
Bayern Munich	8	7	0	1	22	8	21
Liverpool	8	6	0	2	20	8	18
Tottenham	8	5	2	1	17	7	17
Barcelona	8	5	1	2	22	14	16
Chelsea	8	5	1	2	17	10	16
Sporting	8	5	1	2	17	11	16
Man City	8	5	1	2	15	9	16
Real Madrid	8	5	0	3	21	12	15
Inter Milan	8	5	0	3	15	7	15
PSG	8	4	2	2	21	11	14
Newcastle	8	4	2	2	17	7	14
Juventus	8	3	4	1	14	10	13
Atletico Madrid	8	4	1	3	17	15	13
Atalanta	8	4	1	3	10	10	13
B Leverkusen	8	3	3	2	13	14	12
B Dortmund	8	3	2	3	19	17	11
Olympiakos	8	3	2	3	10	14	11
Club Brugge	8	3	1	4	15	17	10
Galatasaray	8	3	1	4	9	11	10
Monaco	8	2	4	2	8	14	10
Qarabag FK	8	3	1	4	13	21	10
Bodo/Glimt	8	2	3	3	14	15	9
Benfica	8	3	0	5	10	12	9
Marseille	8	3	0	5	11	14	9
AE Pafos	8	2	3	3	8	11	9
Union Saint Gilloise	8	3	0	5	8	17	9
PSV	8	2	2	4	16	16	8
Athletic Bilbao	8	2	2	4	9	14	8
Napoli	8	2	2	4	9	15	8
Copenhagen	8	2	2	4	12	21	8
Ajax	8	2	0	6	8	21	6
Eintracht Frankfurt	8	1	1	6	10	21	4
Slavia Prague	8	0	3	5	5	19	3
Villarreal	8	0	1	7	5	18	1
FC Kairat	8	0	1	7	7	22	1

Gianluigi Donnarumma had little to do other than keep out a tame shot from Victor Osimhen.

And their night went from bad to worse before half-time when Cherki took a pass from Doku and beat Cakir with a simple finish.

It was all too easy for the home side, although the sight of Doku limping off before half-time threatened to dampen the mood.

He was replaced by Phil Foden, who blazed over within minutes of coming on.

Osimhen headed straight at Donnarumma and then saw the Italian deny him again, while Omar Marmoush failed to beat Cakir when he should have done better. The second half was drifting towards an inevitable conclusion.

Visiting fans continued to set off flares and one was even thrown into the home section.

But it was Guardiola's men who lit up the Etihad, on an evening which reminded the rest of Europe that City are still capable of fulfilling their European dream for a second time.

MAN CITY (4-2-3-1): Donnarumma; Nunes, Khusanov, Ake, Ait-Nouri; Silva, O'Reilly; Cherki (Gonzalez 82), Marmoush (Reijnders 68), Doku (Foden 37); Haaland.

GALATASARAY (4-2-3-1): Cakir; Sallai, Sanchez, Bardakci (Elmali 68), Jakobs; Gundogan (Torreira 68), Lemina; Sane (Ayhan 80), Sara (Icardi 86), Yilmaz (Akgun 68); Osimhen.

REFEREE: Alejandro Hernandez (Spain).

CHERKI AND STUFFING Rayan Cherki bangs in City's second of the night

BRAZIL BOUND Lucas Paqueta is set to join his boyhood club Flamengo

PAQUETA GOES HOME TO FIND PEACE AND JOY

BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

LUCAS PAQUETA has told West Ham fans he had to leave the club "to find joy in football again".

The Hammers have finally agreed to sell the wantaway midfielder to his boyhood club Flamengo.

The Brazilian giants will pay £36.5m for the 28-year-old, who will sign a five-year contract in Rio de Janeiro.

In an emotional message posted on Instagram, Paqueta noted the highlights of his assist for the winning goal in the Conference League final and the mental strain caused by a two-year FA investigation into alleged spot-fixing, which ultimately saw him seek a return "home".

Paqueta, who was cleared of all charges last July, said: "Hello Hammers! I want to thank everyone at the club: staff, employees, and players, for the years I've spent here.

"These have been unique, memorable moments. Some happy, some not. Some scars I'll carry for the rest of my life, and one made me realise I can't keep fighting against something that's no longer for me.

"I hope someday you'll understand that nothing is more comforting than going back home. I need this for my mental health, my wife, and my children.

"I need to find joy in football again, and regain my peace.

"I know some won't remember me fondly, and I'm sorry – but that pass to Bowen came from someone who stayed true to his dream."

Meanwhile, West Ham have signed winger Adama Traore from Fulham in a £2m deal and James Ward-Prowse has headed to Burnley on loan for the remainder of the season.

Bobb's the job for Cottagers

FULHAM have agreed a £27m deal to sign Oscar Bobb from Manchester City.

The deal with the Cottagers is understood to include a 20 per cent sell-on clause, while City retain the right to match any future bid.

The winger, 22, has fallen down the Etihad pecking order with Antoine Semenyo signing from Bournemouth.

Speaking last week, when asked if Bobb (above) wanted to leave the club, boss Pep Guardiola said: "I think so."

Bobb has not played since starting City's Carabao Cup match against Brentford on December 17, when he went off injured inside 20 minutes.

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Poulter eyes tee for two in a Major: P53

NAPOLI 2 CHELSEA 3

JUST GR-EIGHT Joao Pedro helps put Blues into top eight

JOAO PEDRO was the hero as Chelsea produced a stunning 3-2 win at Napoli to make the top eight of the Champions League.

Liam Rosenior saw his side hit back from 2-1 down at half-time with Pedro scoring twice.

Under-fire Tottenham manager Thomas Frank was relieved as his side ended the group phase in fourth after a 2-0 win at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Liverpool also put their domestic problems behind them as they comfortably eased into the last-16 with a 6-0 victory over Qarabag.

Kai Havertz scored and set up two goals on his first start in 357 days as Arsenal saw off Kairat 3-2 to finish with eight victories.

Joe Willock struck as Newcastle drew 1-1 at holders Paris St Germain for a seeded play-off place in the draw which takes place tomorrow.

MAN CITY 2 0 GALATASARAY

CITY SLICKERS Haaland and Cherki (inset) celebrate their goals

HAAL'S TURKISH DELIGHT

Erling lands knockout blow

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

ERLING Haaland ended his goal drought to help put Manchester City into the Champions League knockout stages.

Haaland scored his first goal in six games in a comfortable win over Galatasaray at the Etihad.

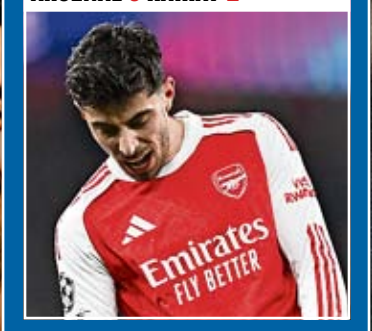
Rayan Cherki added a second before half-time, with his third goal in his last five games. Jeremy Doku produced both assists, but limped off before half-time to provide the only sour note.

City will now wait to discover who they face in the next round, but one of the four possible teams could be Real Madrid.

MATCH REPORT: P 58-59

LIVERPOOL 6 QARABAG 0

ARSENAL 3 KAIRAT 2



FRANKFURT 0 TOTTENHAM 2

PSG 1 NEWCASTLE UNITED 1

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

5			8				6	7
	7	1		5	6		2	
2		6			7			
			9		2	4	5	1
	9			1			7	
1	2	5		4				
			1		8			3
	6		2	7		5	1	
4	1				9			6

MEDIUM

6		4				7		1
				1	7			8
	7		3	4	5		6	
			1					6
9			8		4			7
3					2	1		
	5		7	3			2	
2			4	9				3
1					6	8		

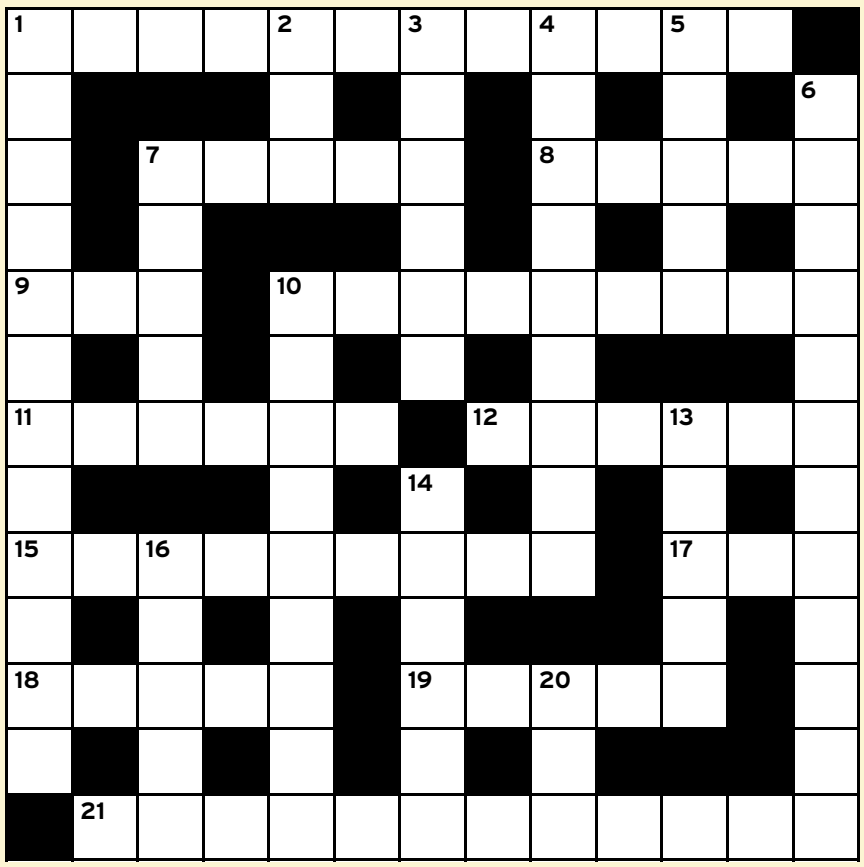
DIFFICULT

2		7				8		1
	8		7		1		5	
8			3		4			2
	6						9	
1			5		9			6
	5		9		2		7	
9		2				4		8

Extra clues: **0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution: **0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Race beginning (8-4)
7 Clip (5)
8 Rule (5)
9 Excessively (3)
10 Multiply (9)
11 Commencement (6)
12 Clear (6)
15 Uplifting (9)
17 Curve (3)
18 Sphere (5)
19 Harbour (5)
21 Declaration of dissent (12)

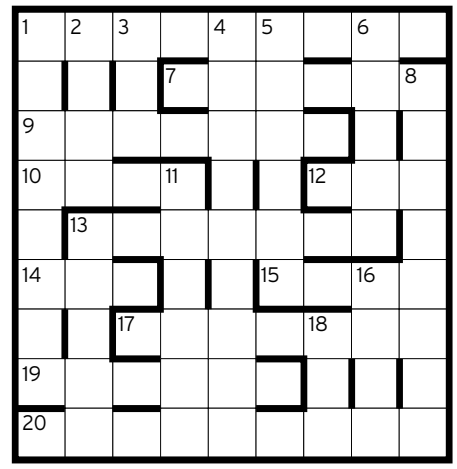
DOWN
1 Faults (12)
2 Part of the foot (3)
3 Circumscribed (6)
4 Sharing (9)
5 Spiral bandage (5)
6 Ban (12)
7 Brief (5)
10 Chairman (9)
13 Simple (5)
14 Rectifies (6)
16 Animal track (5)
20 By way of (3)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

SMALL CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Autograph (9)
7 Inters (6)
9 Down payment (7)
10 Large flightless birds (4)
12 Rogue _, Star Wars film (3)
13 Confidential matters (7)
14 Consumed food (3)
15 Chimney substance (4)
17 Alleviate (7)
19 Exert (6)
20 Parent men (anag.) (9)

DOWN
1 Obliquely (8)
2 Article (4)
3 Opening (3)
4 Country, capital Canberra (9)
5 Clans (6)
6 Straps to control a horse (5)
8 Most sugary (8)
11 Shriek (6)
13 Declare (5)
16 Cooker (4)
18 Hole in a needle (3)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call: **0907 181 2582**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **20 mins** Good: **16 mins** Excellent: **12 mins**

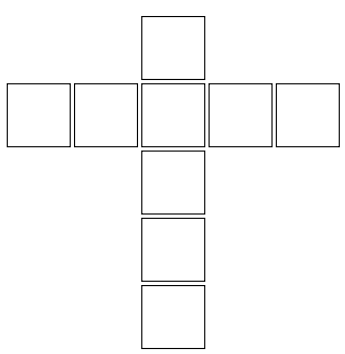
Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

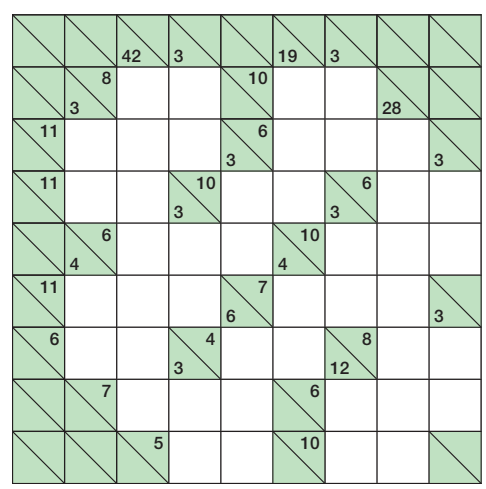
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution tomorrow



C C D E H I L L R

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

1 Pauline, film critic whose volumes include Taking It All In and Deeper Into Movies (4)
3 The --- snail is a popular aquarium creature of the family Planorbidae (8)
8 Italian university city associated with a famous leaning tower (4)
9 'The ---', 1996 Mike Nichols film based on the play La Cage Aux Folles (8)
11 2002 Mark Romanek film starring Robin Williams as Seymour Parrish (3,4,5)
13 High-kicking dance that originated in 19th-century Paris (6)
14 Jarno, Formula 1 motor racing driver who won the 2004 Monaco GP (6)
17 & 22 2005 film starring David Strathairn as Edward R Murrow (4,5,3,4,4)
20 See 2 Down
21 Enamelled or lacquered metal ware popular in the 18th century (4)
22 See 17
23 Largest island of the Inner Hebrides, Scotland (4)

DOWN

1 Raymond, winner of the men's race in the 2002 Berlin Marathon (8)
2 & 20 Shrub, Gaultheria procumbens, also called wintergreen (7,8)
4 A place where bees and beehives are kept (6)
5 1922 Hermann Hesse novella (10)
6 Style of abstract art associated with Bridget Riley (2,3)
7 Large tree of India, Azadirachta indica, whose bark is used to make a tonic (4)
10 Actor whose film roles included Frank Butler in Annie Get Your Gun (6,4)
12 Clarence, New York City-born inventor best known for developing a process for freezing foods (8)
15 Stephen, Canadian humorist whose works include 1910's Literary Lapses (7)
16 --- acid is a corrosive liquid that was formerly called aqua fortis (6)
18 Council region of South Island, New Zealand founded by Scottish settlers (5)
19 The adult male of a red deer (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
to hear individual clues or the full solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*
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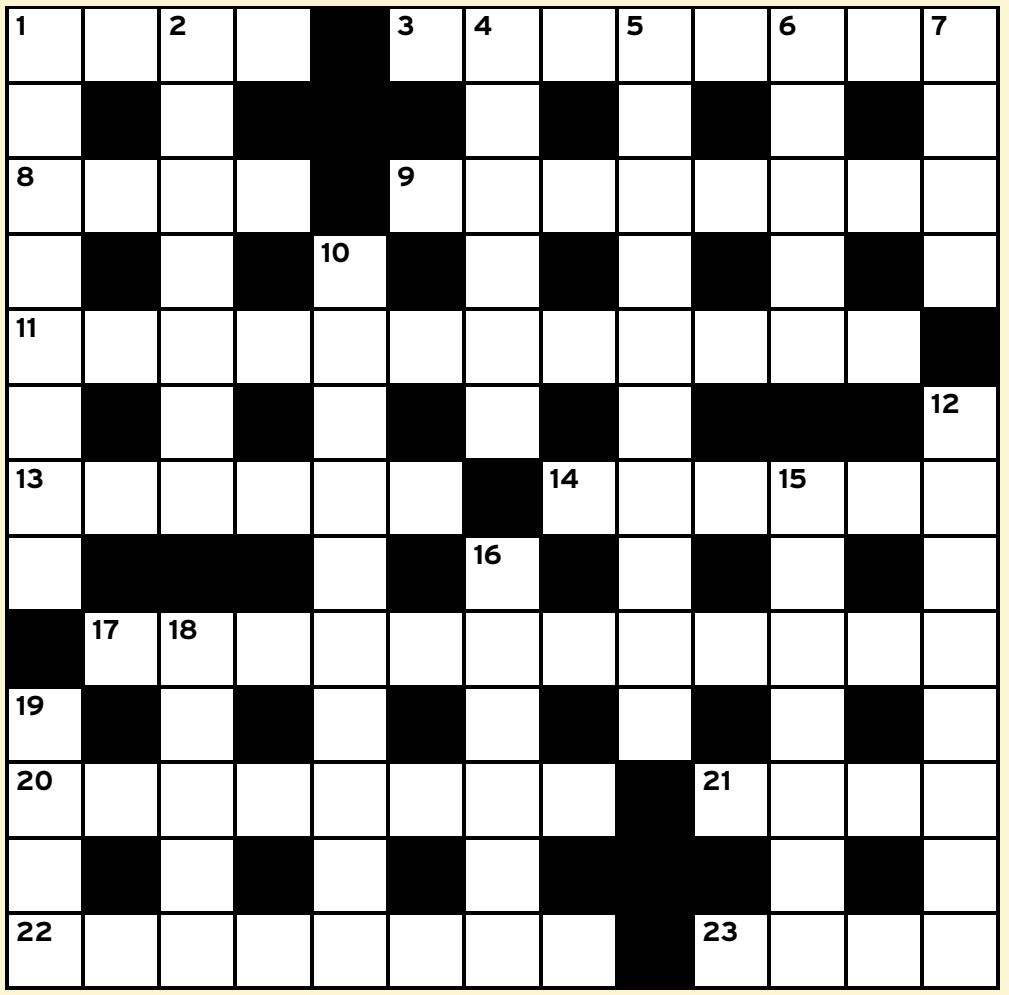
Helpline 0333 202 3390



SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow

	2			4				7
6		5				3		
	4		9	5				6
		4		1				
1		6	2		4			
				9		4	8	1
	6				1			
					9			
5		8			7			

9				7			4	
		4				2		6
2				8	1		9	
				4		6		
			5		7	8		1
				1				
							5	
			3			1		7

			1	5				
			8		2			
			4	9				
8		3			4			
					8			
	4				6			
				2		6	5	8
4		8	9		5			
		2		3				
	8		6	4				3
5		4				1		
	3			1				2

			2	7	4	8	5	1
			9	6	2	4	7	
			4	1	6	2	3	7
3				7			2	
				7				
				4				
6	4	8		7				
			9		8	5		6
				4		8		
4			3	2			1	
		9				3		4
			3				7	

WORD BUILDER

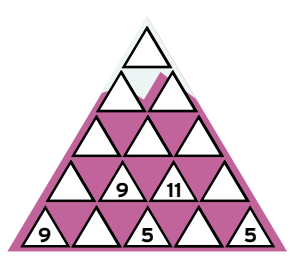
Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

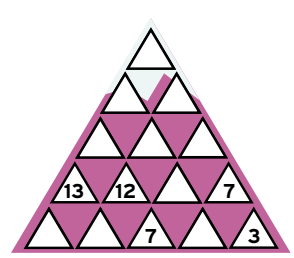
Solution tomorrow

1	□□□	1 Flightless bird
2	□□□□	2 Pack animal
3	□□□□□	3 Primate
4	□□□□□□	4 Rolling roar
5	□□□□□	5 Russian coin
6	□□□□	6 Become unclear
7	□□□	7 Abrade

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?





Solution tomorrow

QUIZWORD

Across:
1 Psittacosis,
9 Oliver's,
10 Story,
11 Angel,
12 Contact,
13 Daniel,
15 Afghan,
18 Roswell,
20 Somme,
22 Smith,
23 Winston,
24 The Rose Tree.
Down:
2 Sting,
3 The Blue,
4 Alsace,
5 Olsen,
6 Isobath,
7 Donald Crisp,
8 Ayrton Senna,
14 Nesmith,
16 Fastnet,
17 Clowes,
19 Ether,
21 Metre.

SAMURAI SUDOKU

1	4	9	8	7	6	3	5	2
2	6	7	5	3	9	8	1	4
3	5	8	4	1	2	9	7	6
7	1	3	6	2	5	4	9	8
6	8	2	9	4	7	1	3	5
4	9	5	3	8	1	6	2	7
8	7	6	1	5	3	2	4	9
5	3	4	2	9	8	7	6	1
9	2	1	7	6	4	5	8	3

1	3	8	6	5	9	4	7	2
4	9	7	8	2	1	6	5	3
6	5	2	3	4	7	9	1	8
2	4	6	7	1	8	5	3	9
5	8	9	4	6	3	1	2	7
3	7	1	2	9	5	8	6	4
7	6	3	1	8	4	2	9	5
8	2	5	9	3	6	7	4	1
9	1	4	5	7	2	3	8	6

			9	2	7	4	8	5
			8	3	5	1	9	6
			4	1	6	2	3	7

7	4	9	3	8	6	1	5	2
2	6	8	5	9	1	3	7	4
3	1	5	4	2	7	6	9	8
9	7	3	2	4	8	5	1	6
4	2	6	1	5	3	7	8	9
8	5	1	6	7	9	4	2	3
1	8	4	9	6	5	2	3	7
5	9	2	7	3	4	8	6	1
6	3	7	8	1	2	9	4	5

9	8	4	6	7	2	5	3	1
7	6	3	1	4	5	8	2	9
5	2	1	9	8	3	7	4	6
2	1	5	8	9	4	6	7	3
6	3	7	2	5	1	9	8	4
8	4	9	7	3	6	2	1	5

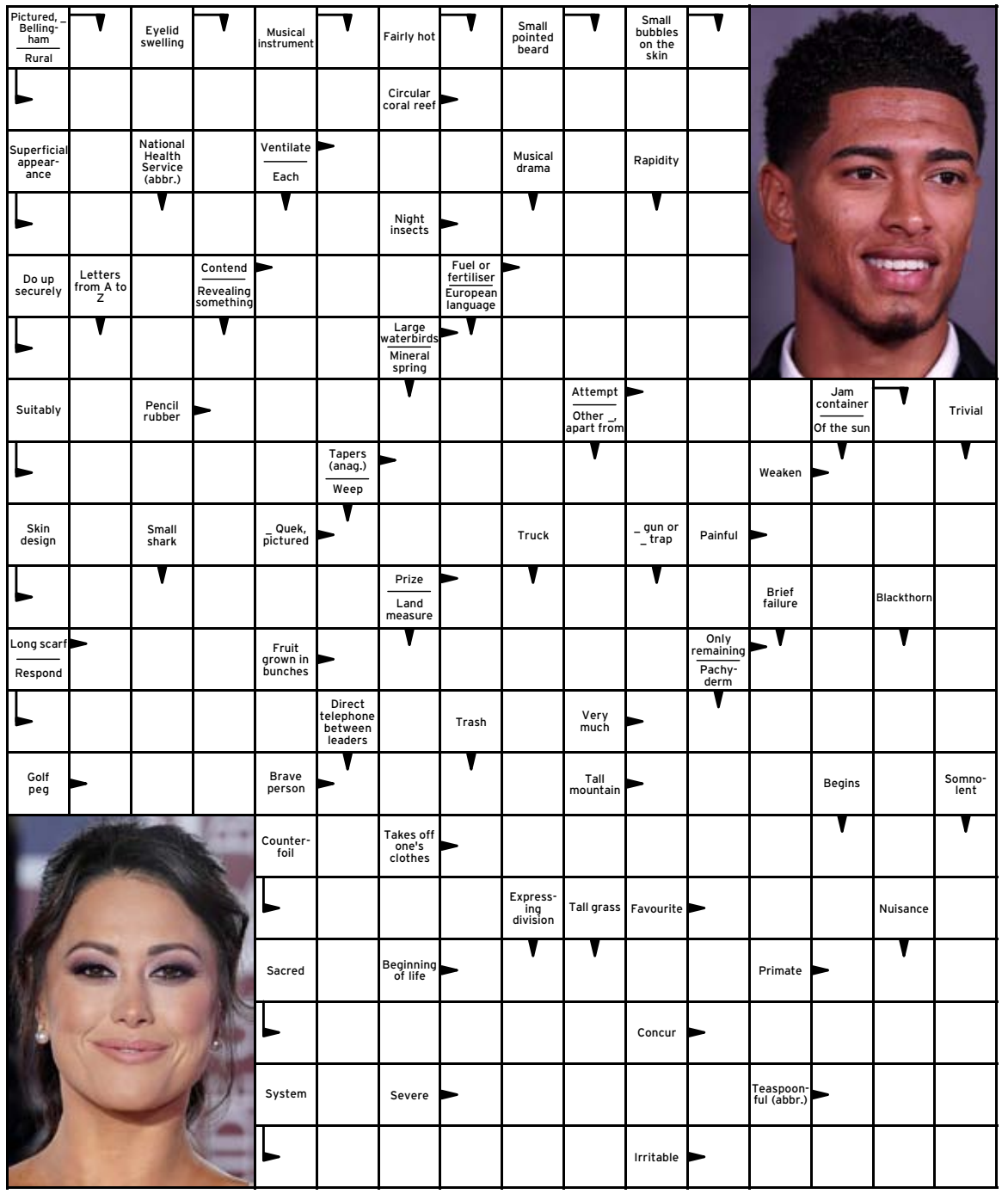
SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Ethereal, **8** Reared, **9** Call, **10** Era, **11** Actual, **13** Lubricant, **15** Ankara, **17** Tug, **18** Knob, **19** Opines, **20** Energise.
Down: 1 Escalator, **2** Teacup, **3** Halt, **4** Remainder, **5** Earl, **6** Arena, **7** Adaptable, **12** Enrols, **14** Begin, **15** Acne, **16** Anti.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow



WORDSEARCH

B	O	U	Q	U	E	T	A	L	C	O	H	O	L	H
L	D	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	D	M	I	E	K	H
E	F	E	S	E	O	T	S	P	U	A	X	H	G	V
N	W	C	C	R	O	R	A	S	K	M	J	G	Z	I
D	K	X	H	A	A	L	T	N	C	E	L	L	A	R
I	T	Z	T	G	N	G	L	D	N	Z	P	Z	B	D
N	Q	A	U	X	U	T	D	E	R	I	H	B	U	B
G	L	S	S	M	C	R	I	M	E	Q	N	R	N	A
O	E	K	K	T	A	L	Q	N	H	S	N	E	V	R
O	F	Y	K	Y	I	G	J	Z	G	M	N	A	I	R
D	C	R	E	L	S	N	N	B	F	H	N	T	N	E
E	O	N	E	A	Q	P	G	U	E	A	J	H	T	L
C	I	O	S	O	S	M	V	R	M	D	N	I	N	S
V	A	O	U	B	O	T	T	L	I	N	G	N	E	G
G	R	A	P	E	J	U	I	C	E	J	P	G	R	A

WORDS RELATED TO WINE-MAKING

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

ALCOHOL ● BARRELS ● BLENDING
BOTTLING ● BOUQUET ● BREATHING
CELLAR ● CORK ● DECANTING
GRAPEJUICE ● HARVEST ● LEES ● MAGNUM
MUST ● SUGARS ● TANNIN ● TASTING
VINEYARD ● VINTNER ● YEAST

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: **4** Piccolo, **8** Occupy, **9** Advance, **10** Tiller, **11** Create, **12** Saturate, **18** Pathetic, **20** Uproar, **21** Random, **22** Relieve, **23** Refuse, **24** Wheedle.
Down: **1** Contest, **2** Acolyte, **3** Appear, **5** Indecent, **6** Craven, **7** Locate, **13** Approval, **14** Stadium, **15** Scamper, **16** Speech, **17** Polite, **19** Heaven.

WORDSEARCH

G	S	N	D	Y	X	T	Z	K	K	S	A	Z	B	G
R	O	P	E	S	E	V	K	C	E	W	X	H	A	B
O	F	U	E	L	H	W	A	L	K	E	C	B	R	K
U	G	G	L	B	P	R	X	P	R	R	G	G	U	S
N	A	A	T	G	F	O	K	X	O	N	N	R	K	Z
D	M	W	Q	O	B	O	Z	T	I	S	A	T	T	X
S	E	F	O	L	F	K	E	P	N	E	E	V	E	Y
H	S	R	O	Y	G	V	E	W	L	R	Q	W	N	E
E	Y	O	O	U	R	E	A	O	B	H	U	P	T	L
E	C	V	C	C	L	Z	P	D	C	A	N	O	P	Y
T	M	A	P	S	U	O	N	E	V	N	Z	L	B	M
N	J	V	G	M	V	I	N	W	G	Z	M	H	F	O
H	B	H	R	B	W	E	S	L	G	S	T	O	V	E
A	I	R	B	E	D	T	C	H	G	K	N	G	J	K
G	D	T	W	Z	H	L	Y	B	F	C	W	T	E	F

ARROW-WORD

	L		M		V		R		F		P			
C	I	N	E	M	A			O	B	E	S	E		
	M		N		N	A	C	R	E		N			
A	B	S	U	R	D			A	L	A	N			
		O			A	M	Y		E	G	O			
P	A	T	E	L	L	A		B	R	A	N			
	G		A			O	D	E		S		E		E
A	O	R	T	A		R		A	S	S	A	S	S	I	N
		A		S	C	I	E	N	T	I	S	T	S		V
S	U	D	O	K	U		F		A		I		W	A	Y
	G	A	G		M	A	T	E	R	N	A	L		R	
	L		R	I	B	S		P		O		E	T	C	H
T	Y	R	E		E	S	P	I	O	N	A	G	E		I
					R		A	C	M	E			U	N	I	T
			I	B	I	S			I	T	E	M		G		
			A			S	O	N			S	E	I	N	E	
	E	T	N	A			O	P	S			R	I	P		
		C			G	N	U			E	L	I	T	E		
	S	H	O	E			S	A	X			S	E	E		

SUDOKU EASY

7	4	6	2	5	8	3	9	1
3	8	1	4	9	6	5	2	7
2	5	9	1	3	7	4	8	6
5	6	3	9	8	2	1	7	4
4	2	8	5	7	1	6	3	9
9	1	7	3	6	4	2	5	8
6	7	5	8	1	3	9	4	2
8	3	4	6	2	9	7	1	5
1	9	2	7	4	5	8	6	3

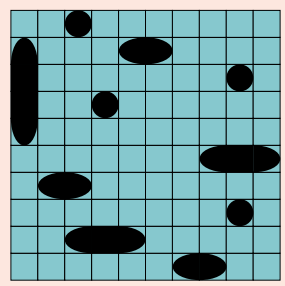
SUDOKU MEDIUM

6	3	8	1	4	9	2	7	5
4	9	1	7	2	5	8	6	3
5	7	2	8	3	6	4	9	1
3	6	4	2	1	8	7	5	9
7	8	5	6	9	4	1	3	2
2	1	9	3	5	7	6	4	8
9	5	6	4	8	2	3	1	7
1	2	7	5	6	3	9	8	4
8	4	3	9	7	1	5	2	6

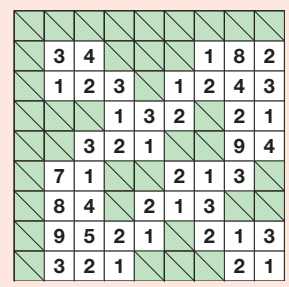
SUDOKU DIFFICULT

5	7	1	3	2	8	4	6	9
6	8	2	5	9	4	1	7	3
4	9	3	1	6	7	5	8	2
9	3	4	6	8	2	7	5	1
1	2	5	4	7	3	6	9	8
8	6	7	9	1	5	2	3	4
3	5	6	8	4	1	9	2	7
7	1	8	2	5	9	3	4	6
2	4	9	7	3	6	8	1	5

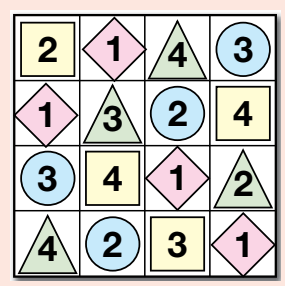
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO



KEIJO



TARGET

EARTHWORK
artwork, awoke, EARTHWORK, hake, hark, hawk, hawker, kart, karter, keta, kora, okra, rake, rework, take, taker, teak, toke, toker, trek, tweak, wake, weak, woke, work, worker, wreak

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Visit, Ratio, Juxtapose, Plug (clue), Knee, Quake, Cog, Out, Epic, Quay, Dim, Asp, Trial, Zinc, Slow, Tangerine, Chewy, Tower.
Down: Topic, Dozen, Judgement, Slug, Cave, Quilt, Tit, Gay, Away, Size, Rap, Rot, Equal, Tusk, Snow, Enjoyable, Fleet, Power.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 31, 34, 38.
Across: Yellow, Fever, Phlegm, Equate, Judicial, Roughshod, Barnacle, Lowest, Eureka, Vinyl, Bowyer. **Down:** Often, Subtext, Usurer, Zeta, Ego, Rejig, Crazy, Loped, Shelf, Owl, Whim, Iodine, Jumbled, Stalk.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: CHASM
Down: GLOWS

SUMMIT UP

89 and 96

WORD BUILDER

Sot, Rots, Stork, Stoker, Treks, Rest, Set

Puzzles

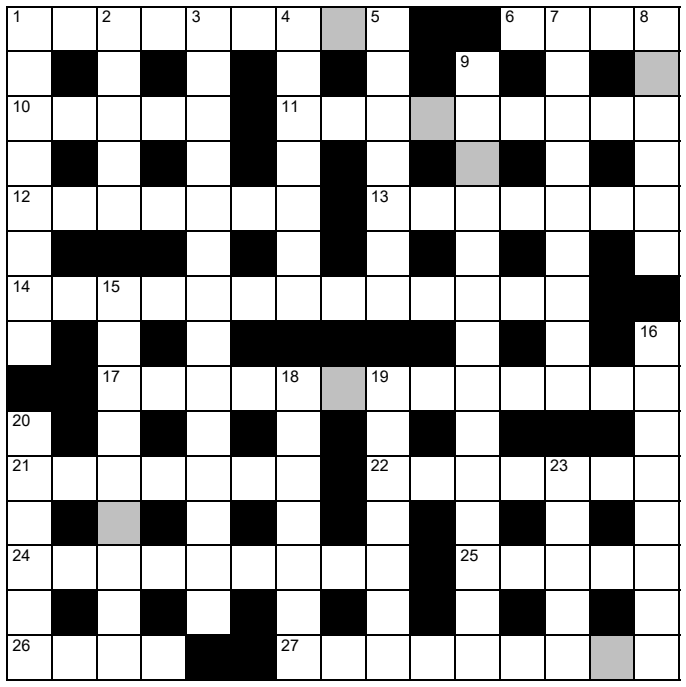
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Switching defence group generated miracle using digits (9)
6 A long time to get silver bearings (4)
10 First boot sale organised in city (5)
11 Father treated rust, with time for grazing (9)
12 Catch stringed instrument around window (7)
13 Thanks Mike – a diversion – then get ready to shoot (4,3)
14 Invite sole criminal, ready to box (10,3)
17 Add vinaigrette after drink to formal garment (8,5)
21 Foyer containing elderly bag (7)
22 Offender sees copper record unfinished ceremony (7)
24 PM has his own bag (9)
25 Key affection for manual protection (5)
26 New university students in void (4)
27 Initially, friend works on a ship (5,4)

DOWN

1 Tiny boil treated in the Lords (8)
2 Strange omen about small particle (5)
3 Part of sentence that deals with family? (8,6)
4 Tree in Mediterranean location, say (7)
5 Behold those swimming in land (7)
7 Promise eager aunt to change (9)
8 Playing set, may become hot (6)
9 Tongue getting pleasure – that's sweet (7,7)
15 Pub shout – it covers little distance (5,4)
16 Weariest form, in a manner of speaking (2,2,4)
18 Aged aristocrat outside getting berated (4,3)
19 One lancer broadcast, not encoded (2,5)
20 Military ruler has firearm, but no time (6)
23 Artist takes one old judge for a wine (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 29, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 30 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.
● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TUESDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Gasp, 3 Plebiscite, 9 Neon, 10 On occasion, 11 Reciprocate, 15 Last place, 17 Frown, 18 Tenor, 19 Retriever, 20 Embroidered, 24 Altogether, 25 Limb, 26 Spectacles, 27 Knee. **DOWN:** 1 Generality, 2 Showcasing, 4 Lento, 5 Bucharest, 6 State of mind, 7 Iris, 8 Erne, 12 Paperweight, 13 Conversion, 14 Incredible, 16 Acrobatic, 21 Obese, 22 Taps, 23 Stye. **Prizeword:** Centimetre

TARGET

L	U	M
P	D	U
B	E	N

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

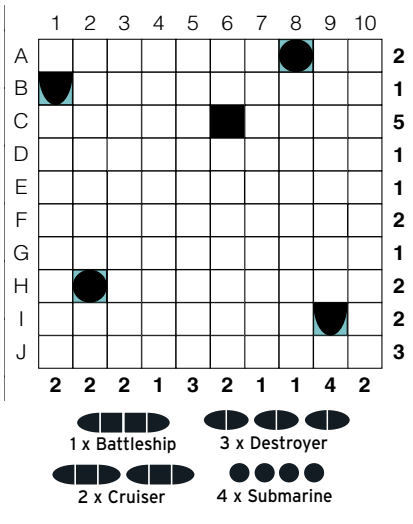
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 13; **very good** 20; **excellent** 26 **(or more).** Solution tomorrow

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 34 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

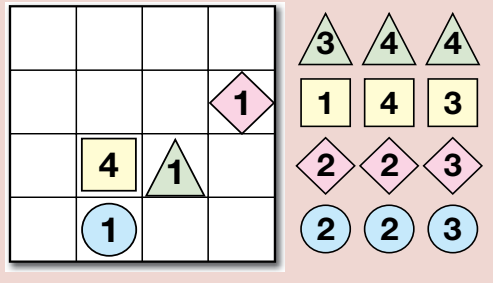
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

A	17	30	30	36	13	28	15	7	3	30	23	31	39
B													
C	23	15	1	18	7	13	36	18	40	8	10	36	13
D													
E	31	19	15	39	16	38	4	23	1	36	28	32	18
F													
G	20	8	11	3	31	39	30	19	21	17	36	6	16
H													
I	8	36	13	33	8	23	20	27	31	25	1	26	23
J													
K	37	11	32	40	7	2	22	34	9	39	37	6	8
L													
M	19	9	20	13	36	19	6	40	18	27	3	35	40
N													
O	30	19	34	36	3	13	26	6	38	16	7	38	12
P													
Q	11	32	31	2	7	29	1	9	8	4	39	12	29
R													
S	13	36	30	13	40	8	19	6	7	26	28	13	32
T													
U	19	22	35	19	11	38	5	22	25	39	14	16	26
V													
W	10	13	19	27	8	33	40	5	35	25	38	30	35
X													
Y	8	20	28	25	9	22	8	9	24	36	10	10	16
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			M											H		U			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow

DIFFICULTY: 7/10; **TARGET:** 23 mins; **CLUE:** Reported desire to make bread.

A	23	5	12	1		12	1	21	7	2	2	24	1
B													
C	7		7		12		18		21		16		10
D													
E	22	7	19	17	5	26	1		22	16	16	20	1
F													
G	12		16		20		22		5		24		26
H													
I	16	4	26	19	1		11	1	6	9	16	24	
J													
K	9				19		6				25		7
L													
M	1	8	4	5	6	14		19	9	7	14	16	26
N													
O	1		15				6		1				19
P													
Q		8	4	7	9	6	16		13	7	5	10	1
R													
S	16		24		7		3		7		26		20
T													
U	15	26	1	7	21		3	16	9	3	1	5	6
V													
W	9		24		5		1		21		11		16
X													
Y	7	26	1	22	16	26	1	20		20	6	5	9
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 K	16	17 H	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 3; INTERMEDIATE = 339; ADVANCED = 23.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES